

KARINA

Sleeping Beauty

ACT I



Europe
COMICS

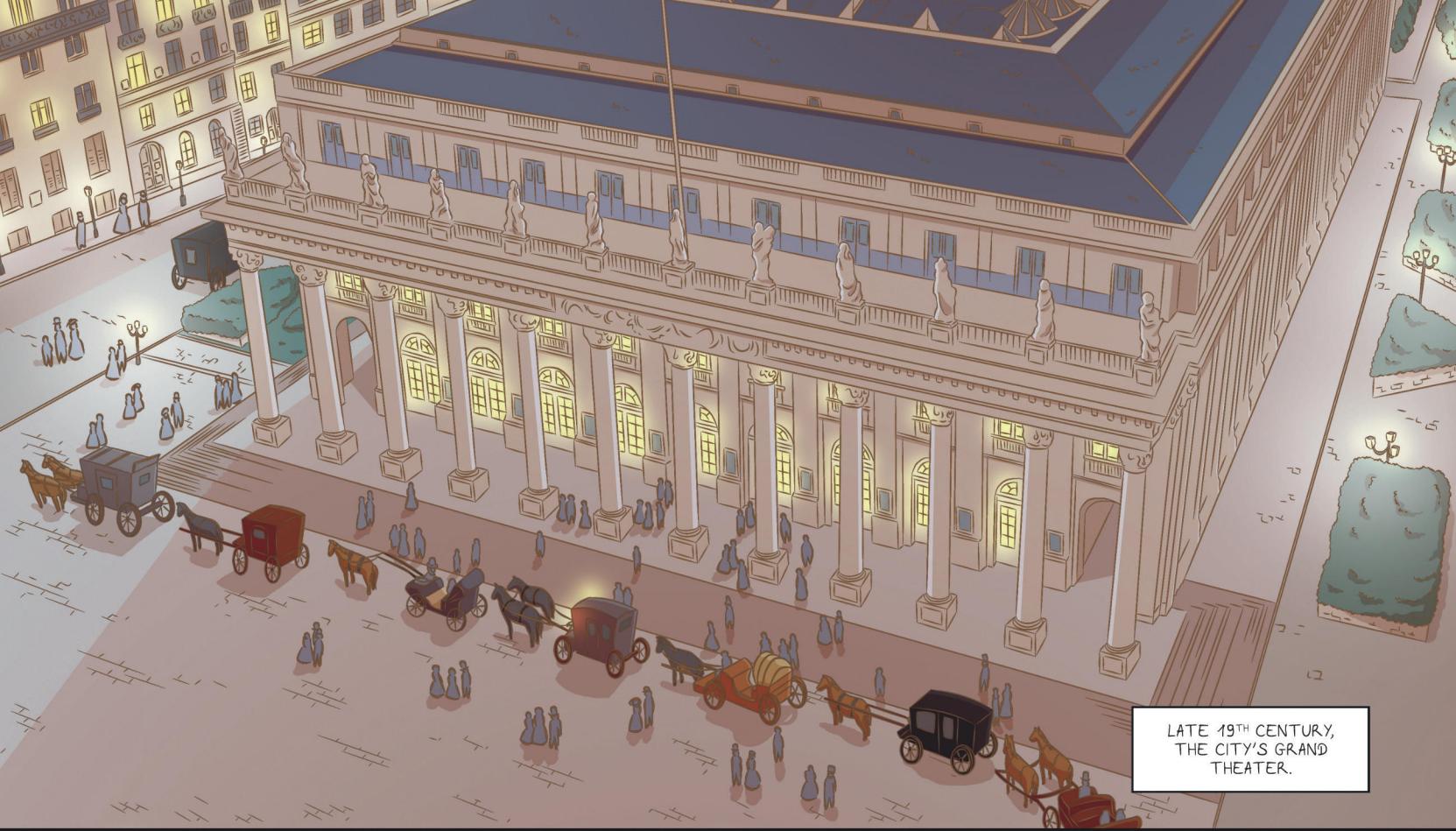
KARINA

Sleeping Beauty

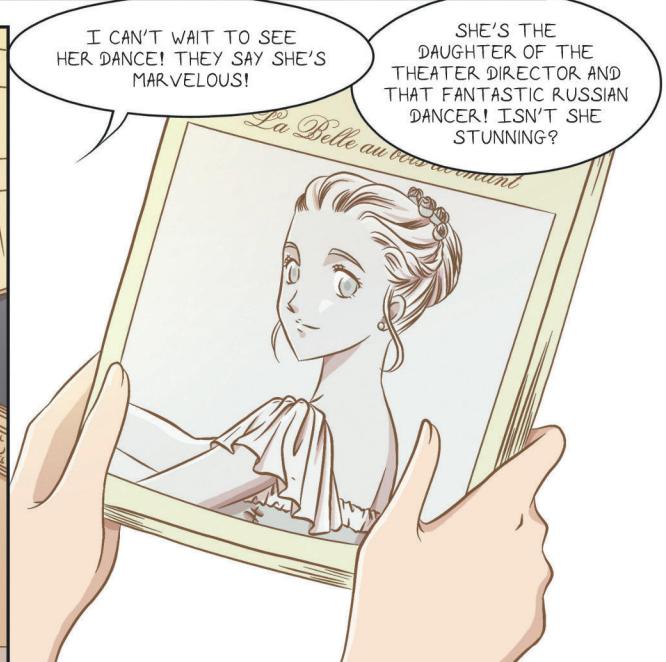
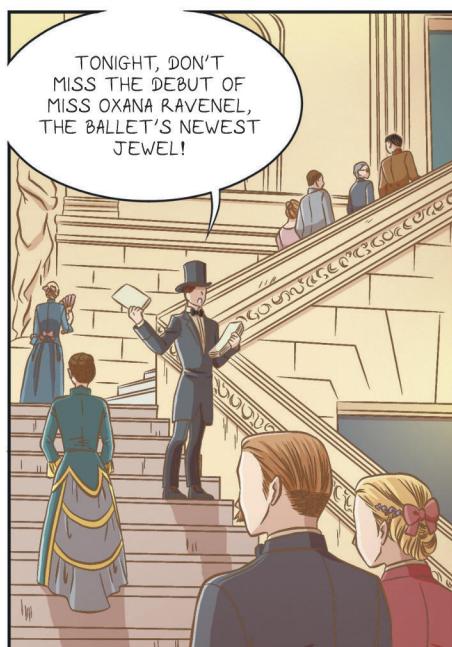
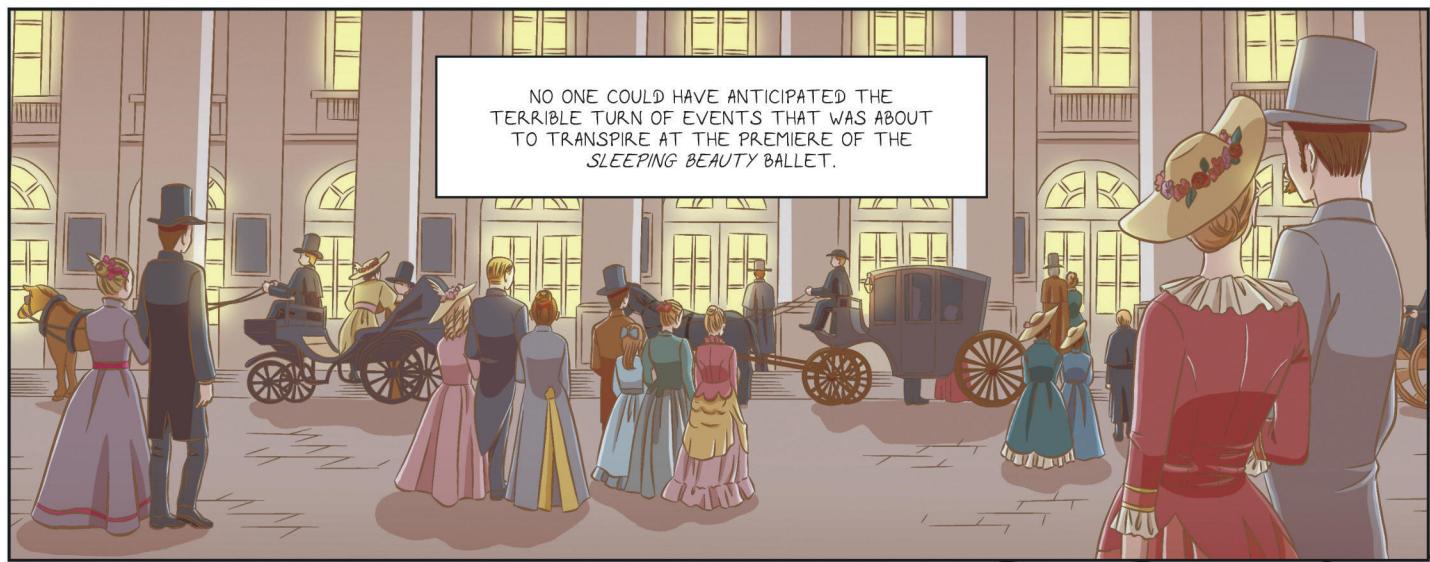


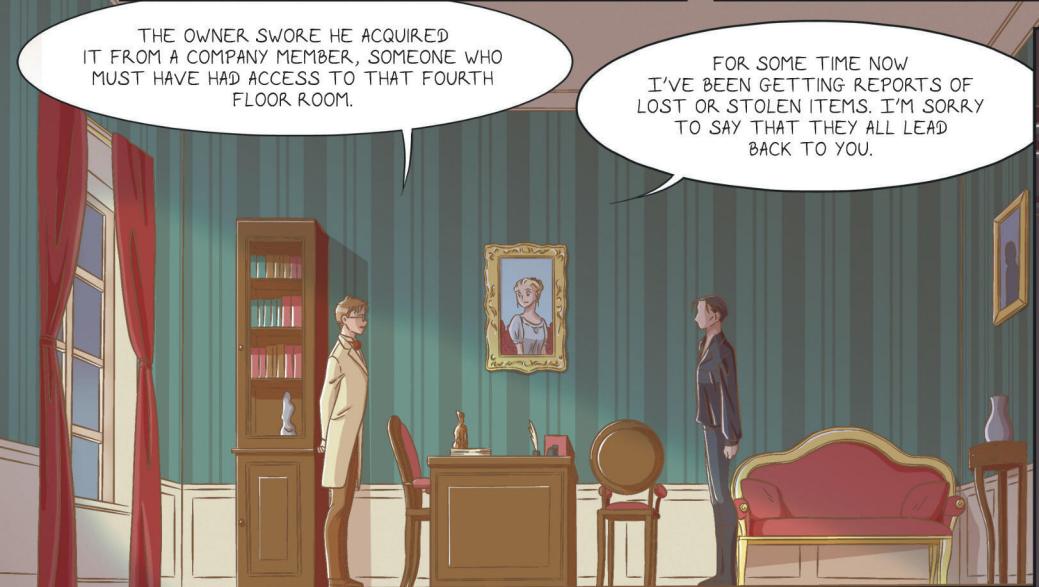
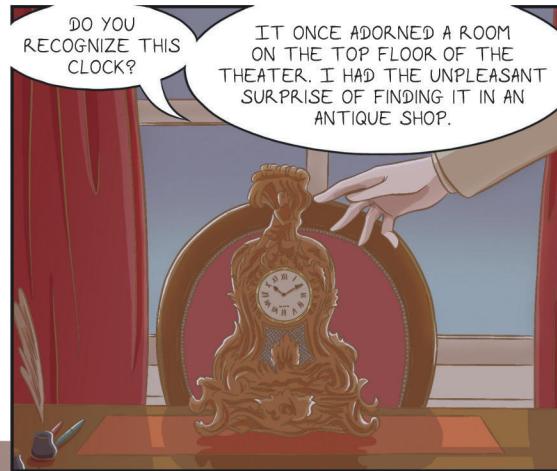
ACT I





LATE 19TH CENTURY,
THE CITY'S GRAND
THEATER.





YOU'LL STILL PLAY THE PART OF THE WICKED FAIRY TONIGHT, BUT IT WILL BE THE LAST TIME. DON'T DISAPPOINT ME.

MY LAST TIME? TONIGHT? NEVER! I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THE STAGE! I WAS BORN TO DANCE! I REFUSE TO LEAVE!

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS AFFRONT, MR. RAVENEL! I'LL EXACT REVENGE ON THE PERSON YOU HOLD DEAREST! I SWEAR IT!

THIS STAGE, THIS THEATER... IT WILL ALL BE MINE!

WHAT?! DANCE YOUR PART?

JUST FOR THE PROLOGUE, THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO. I'LL BE BACK IN TIME FOR ACT I.

HERE, TAKE THIS COSTUME! WITH YOUR NOSE, YOU WON'T NEED A PROSTHETIC ONE!

UH...

WAIT, DON'T GO! THE CURTAIN GOES UP IN A MATTER OF MINUTES!

WE'RE CLOSED. I'M NOT TAKING ANY CUSTOMERS, OR THE BOSS MIGHT SUSPECT ME OF UNDER-THE-TABLE SALES.

MIGHT THESE PERSUADE YOU OTHERWISE?

BAM!



ARE THEY REAL? ARE THEY JUST MORE STOLEN GOODS OR ACTUAL FAMILY HEIRLOOMS?

FAMILY HEIRLOOMS... BUT NOT MINE. IN ANY CASE, THEY'RE MEANINGLESS TO ME NOW. WHERE'S THAT BLACK MAGIC INSTRUMENT OF YOURS, THE ONE YOU TOLD ME ABOUT LAST TIME, THAT GRANTS A PERSON'S DEAREST WISHES? I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THIS IN EXCHANGE.

LET ME LOOK OVER THE MERCHANDISE. BUT YOU KNOW...

...IT'S QUITE VALUABLE... I'M NOT SURE THESE TRINKETS WILL SUFFICE...

CLUNK!

IN THE BACK, FIRST DISPLAY CASE.

NOT THE WISEST PLACE TO STORE A DARK OBJECT, IS IT?

WHAT CAN I SAY? I DIDN'T WANT TO AROUSE SUSPICIONS!

THERE IT IS: THE OBJECT THAT WILL SAVE MY CAREER... AND MY LIFE! MAGNIFICENT! WHAT CENTURY?

IT GIVES OFF AN INCREDIBLE AURA!

AND YET, IT HAS DRIVEN MANY ASTRAY, EVEN MAD... TOO MUCH POWER BREEDS INSANITY!

DON'T WORRY. I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I WANT...

REMEMBER THAT IN ORDER TO GET YOUR WISH, YOU MUST GIVE IT SOMETHING PRECIOUS IN EXCHANGE... SOMETHING VITAL!

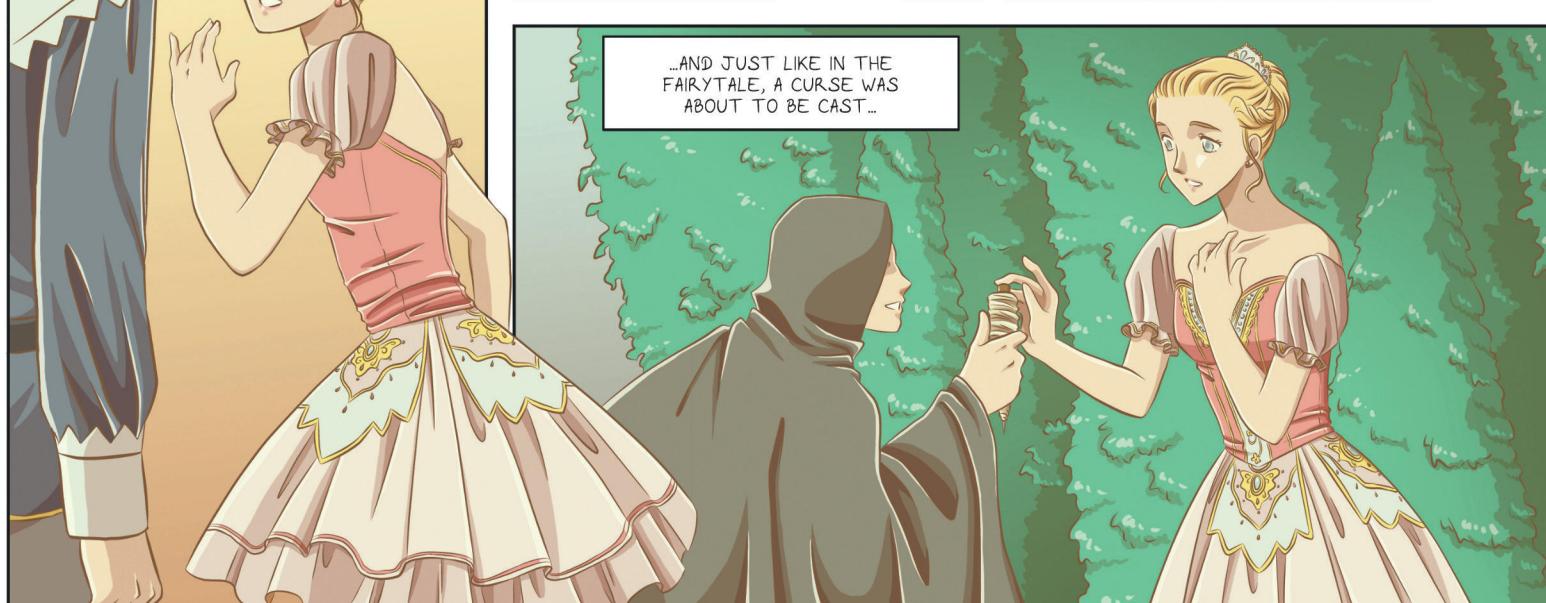
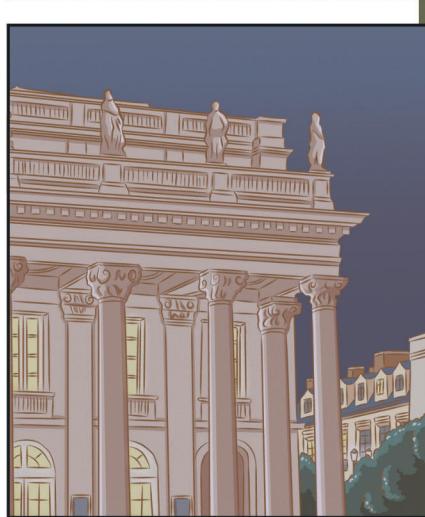
VITAL?

LATE 17TH. THEY SAY THE MAN WHO MADE IT WORKED ON IT HIS ENTIRE LIFE. IT WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE KING, BUT AS IT NEVER ACTUALLY GOT USED, ITS MAKER WAS NEVER PAID AND LIVED IN MISERY. THE INSTRUMENT'S BEEN CURSED EVER SINCE AND GRANTS ONLY THE DARKEST OF DESIRES...

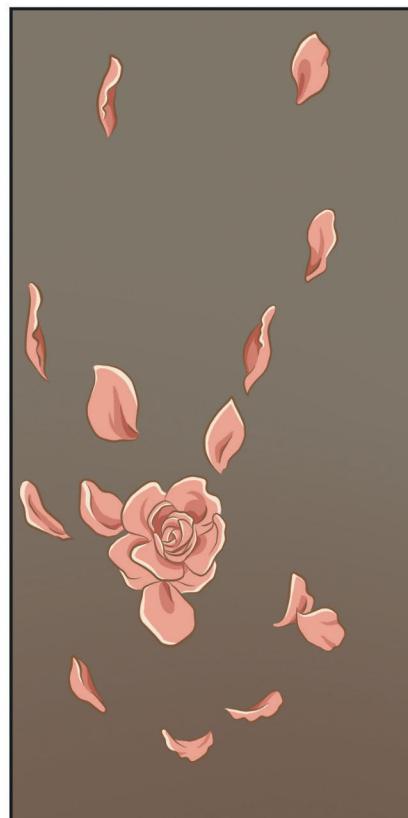
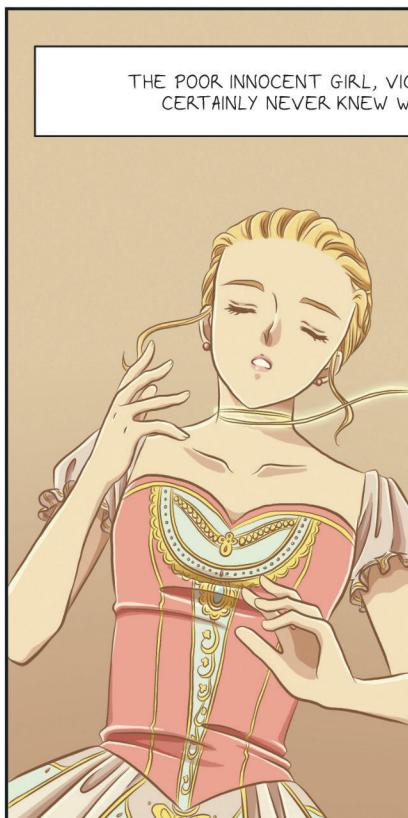
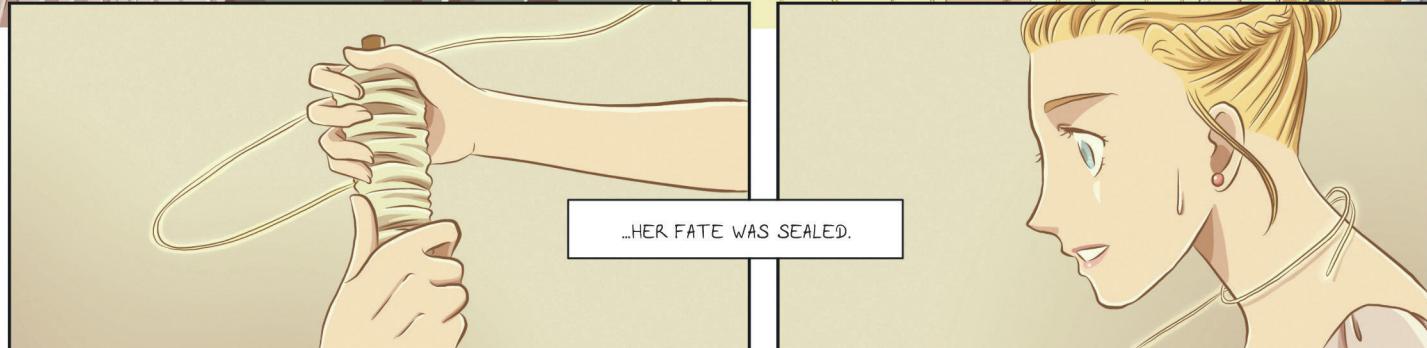
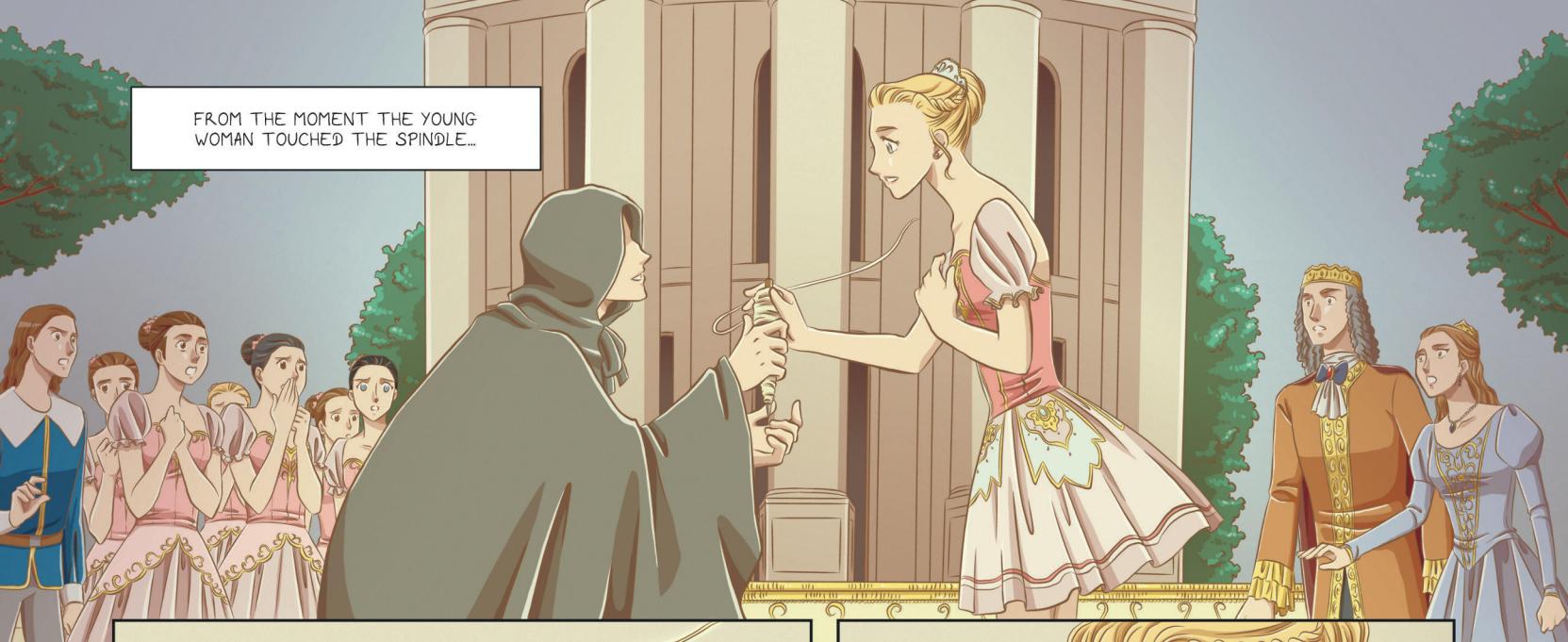
AAAAHHH!!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

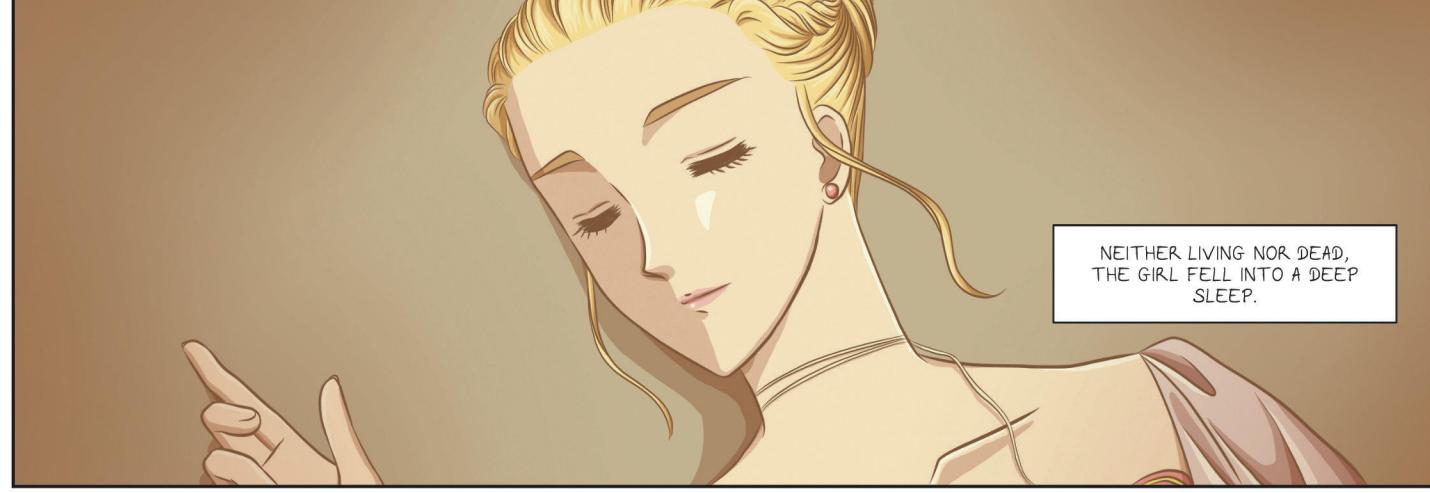
WHOOSH!



FROM THE MOMENT THE YOUNG WOMAN TOUCHED THE SPINDEL...



THE POOR INNOCENT GIRL, VICTIM OF A TERRIBLE VENGEANCE, CERTAINLY NEVER KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO HER...



NEITHER LIVING NOR DEAD,
THE GIRL FELL INTO A DEEP
SLEEP.

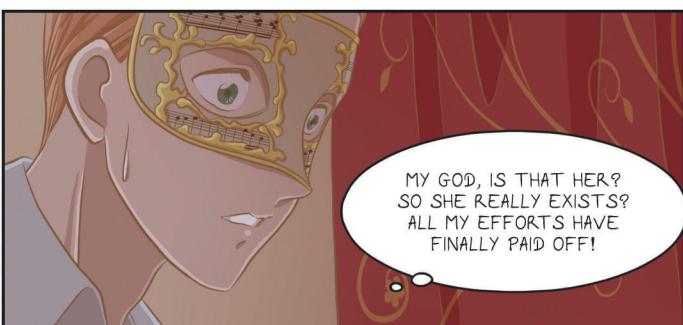
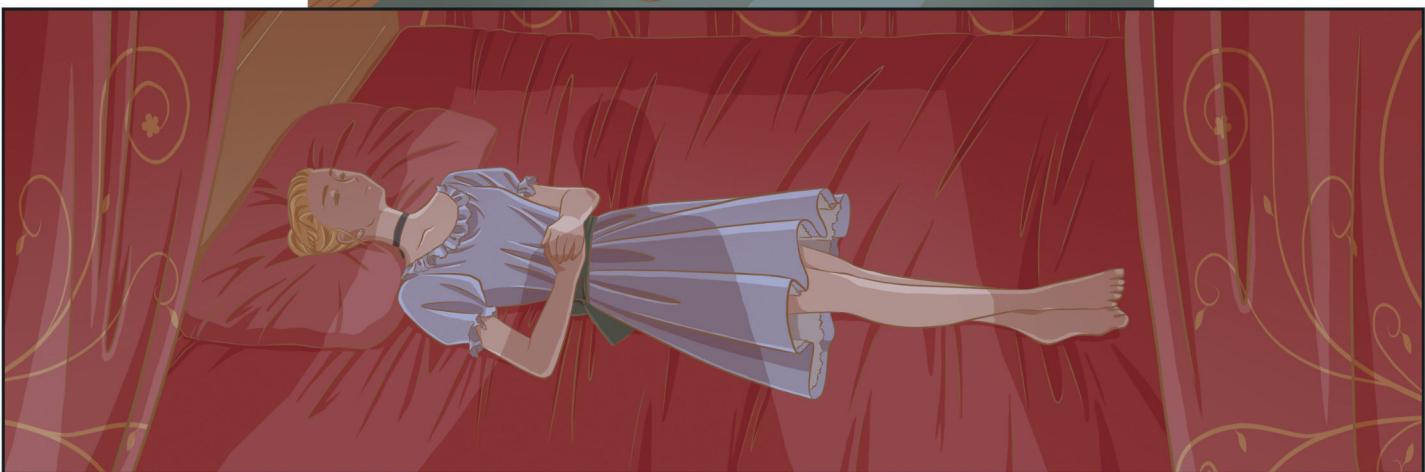




SHE'S EVEN CLOSER THAN YOU MIGHT THINK!

IN FACT, SHE'S IN THE SOUTH TOWER OF THE GRAND THEATER'S ACADEMY OF DANCE AND MUSIC!



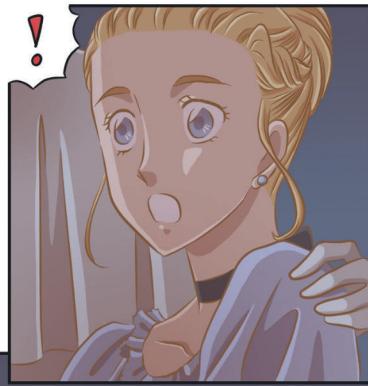
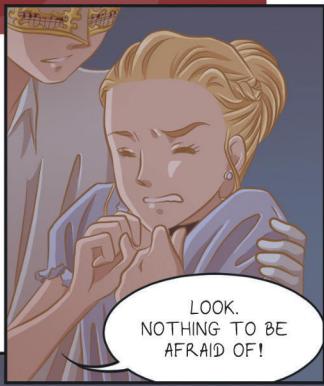
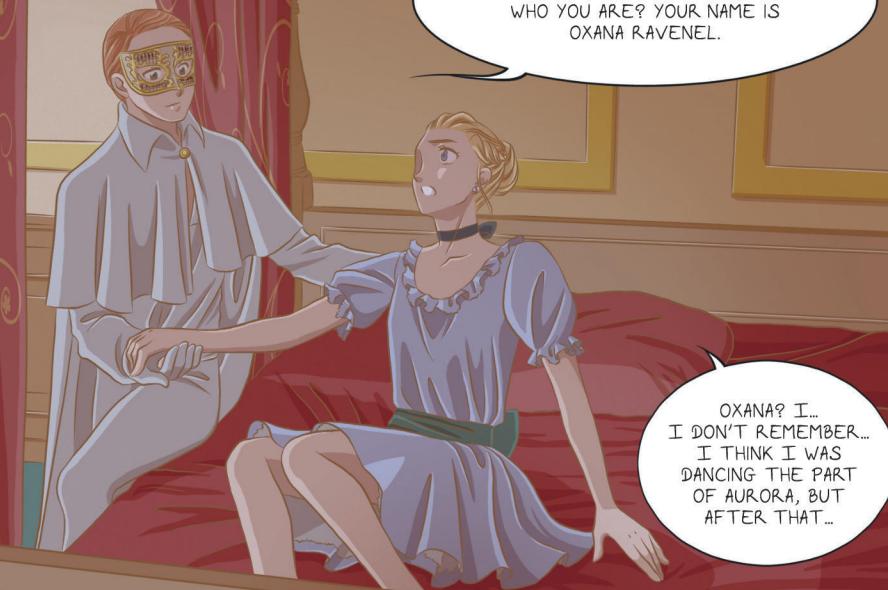


IT DOESN'T MATTER
WHO I AM. DO YOU REMEMBER
WHO YOU ARE? YOUR NAME IS
OXANA RAVENEL.

COME ON,
LET'S GET SOME
AIR!

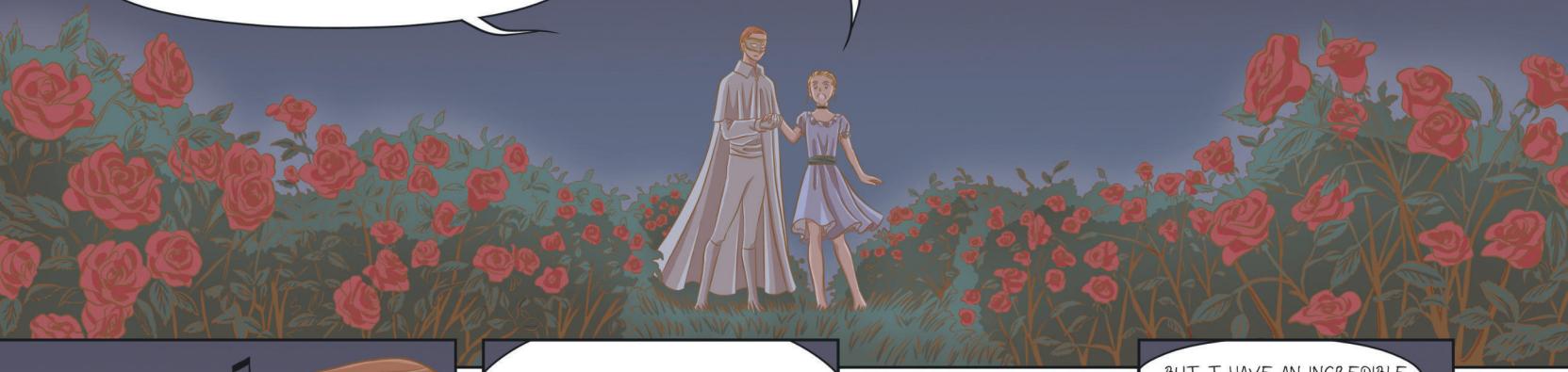
OXANA? I...
I DON'T REMEMBER...
I THINK I WAS
DANCING THE PART
OF AURORA, BUT
AFTER THAT...

WHOA!



IT'S AS IF THESE ROSES BLOOMED
JUST FOR YOU.

OOOH! HOW BEAUTIFUL!

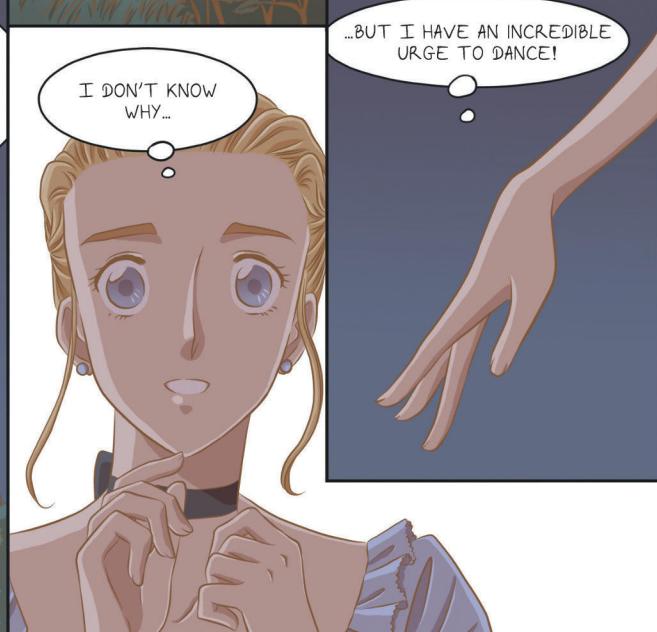
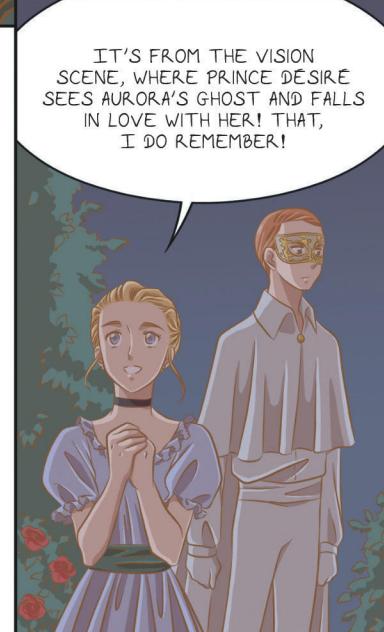


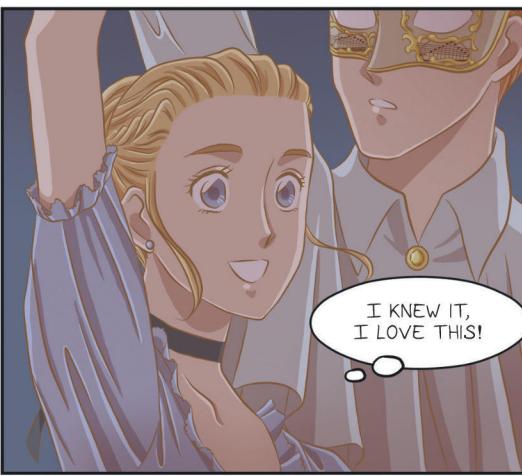
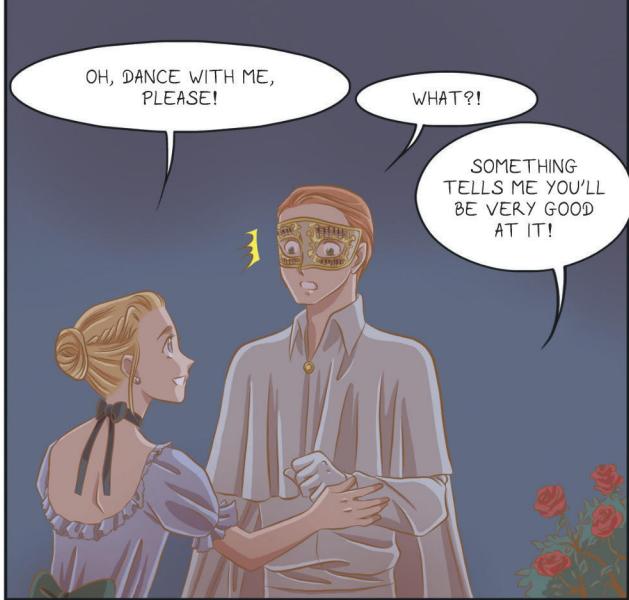
A VIOLIN!
SOMEBODY'S
PLAYING!

IT'S FROM THE VISION
SCENE, WHERE PRINCE DESIRE
SEES AURORA'S GHOST AND FALLS
IN LOVE WITH HER! THAT,
I DO REMEMBER!

...BUT I HAVE AN INCREDIBLE
URGE TO DANCE!

I DON'T KNOW
WHY...



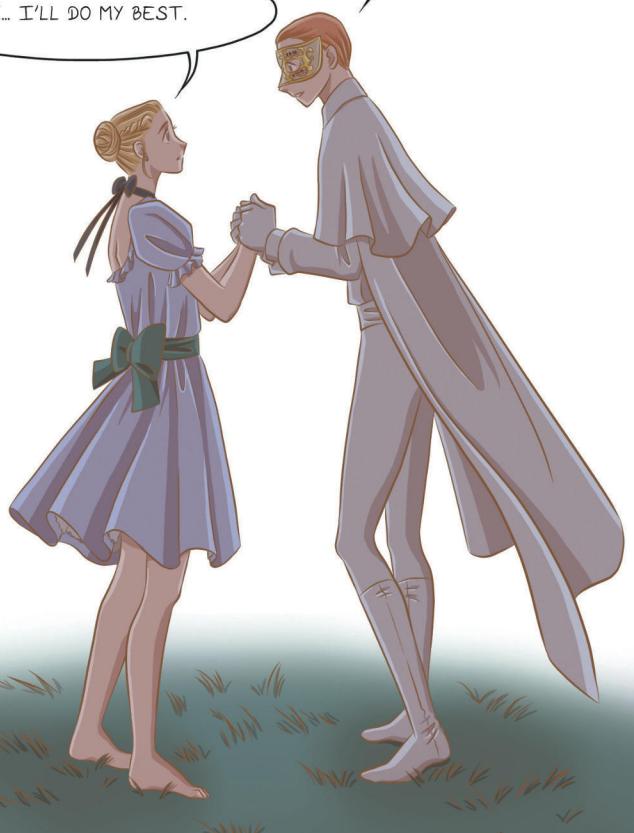
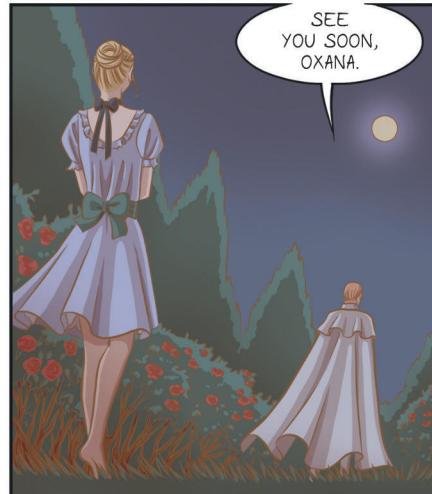


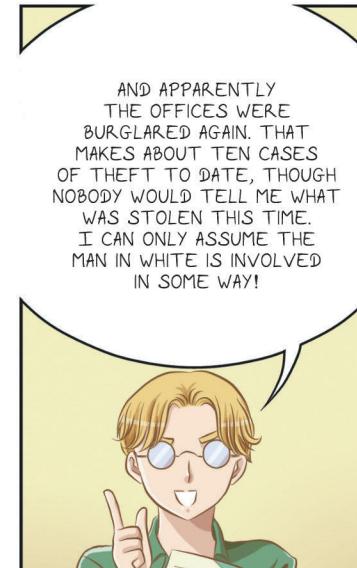
I CAN SEE YOU THAT HAVEN'T LOST YOUR PASSION FOR DANCE. PROMISE ME YOU'LL PLAY THE ROLE OF AURORA AGAIN. I'D BE DELIGHTED TO SEE YOU DANCE.

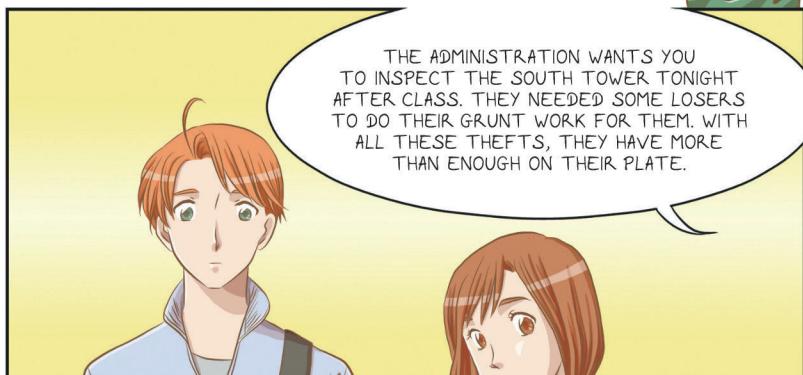
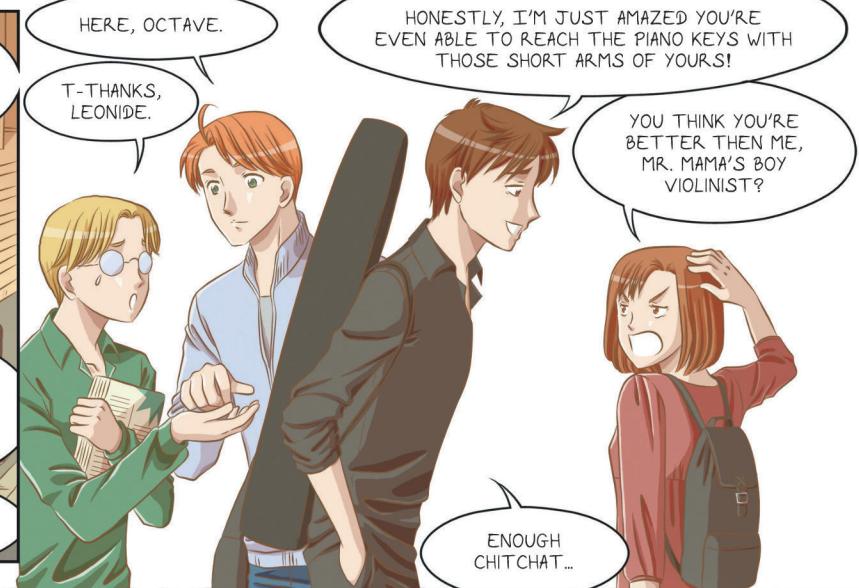
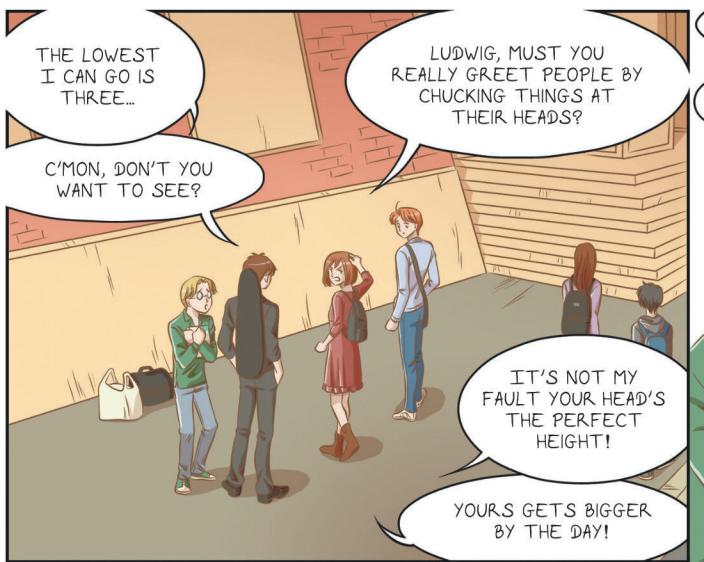
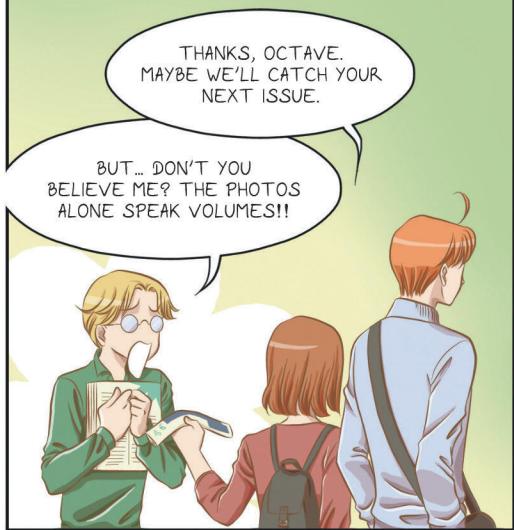
I... I'LL DO MY BEST.

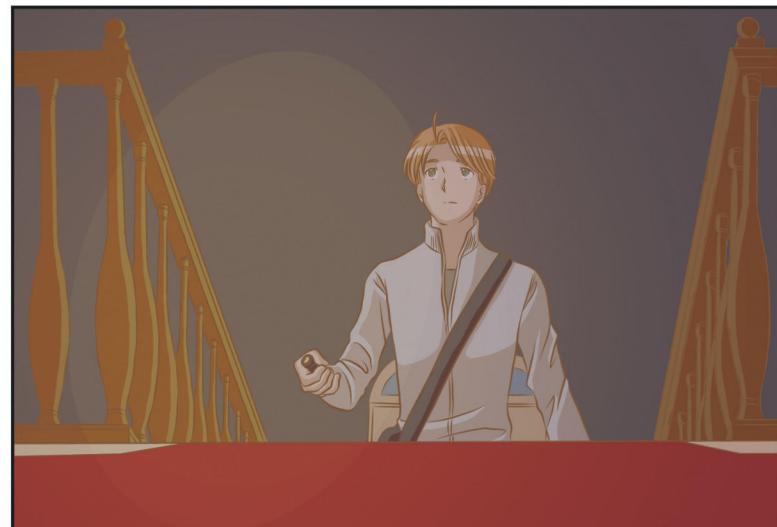
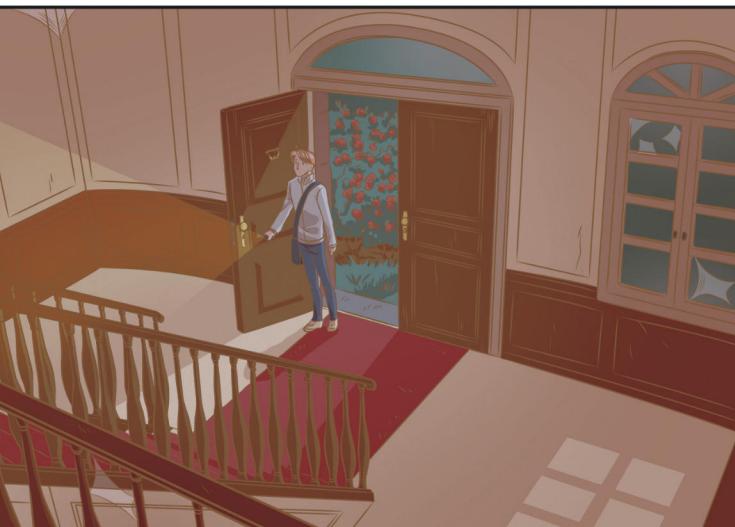
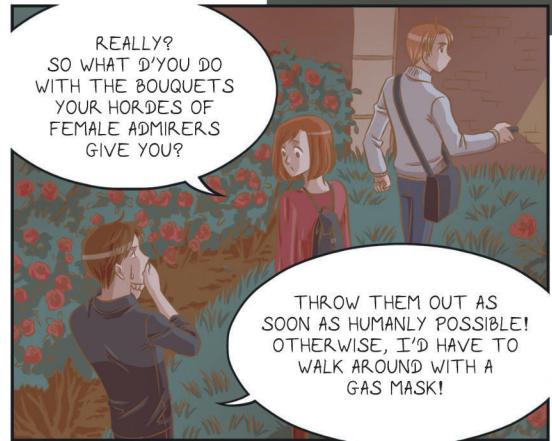
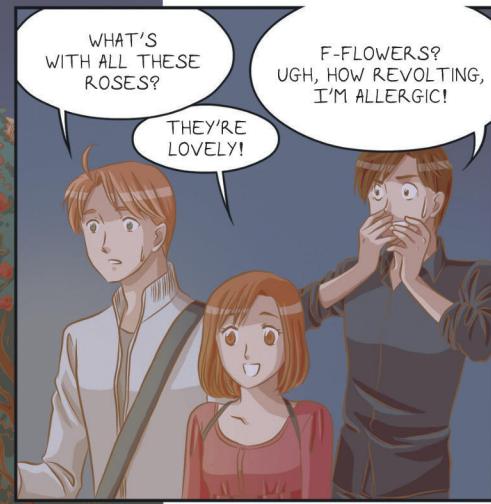
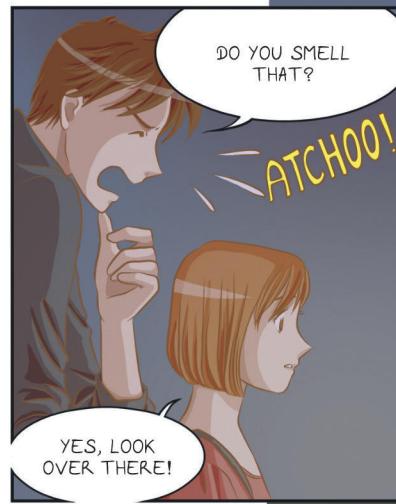
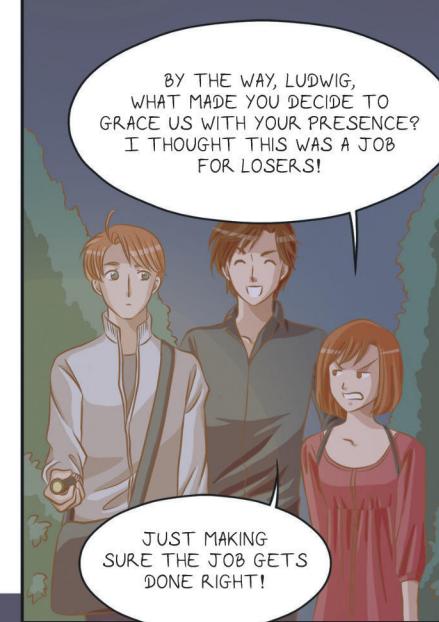
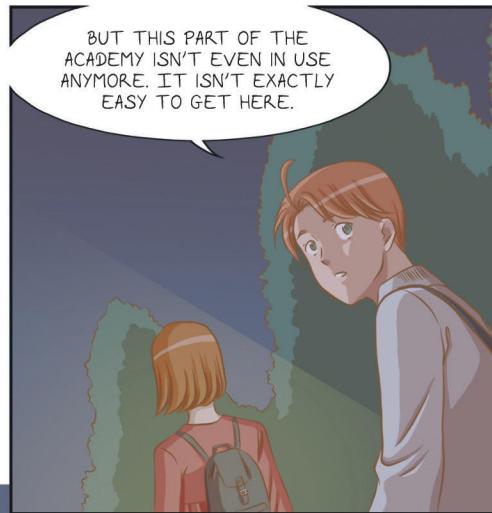
AND KEEP THIS NECKLACE WITH YOU ALWAYS. IT WILL HELP YOU NO MATTER WHAT.

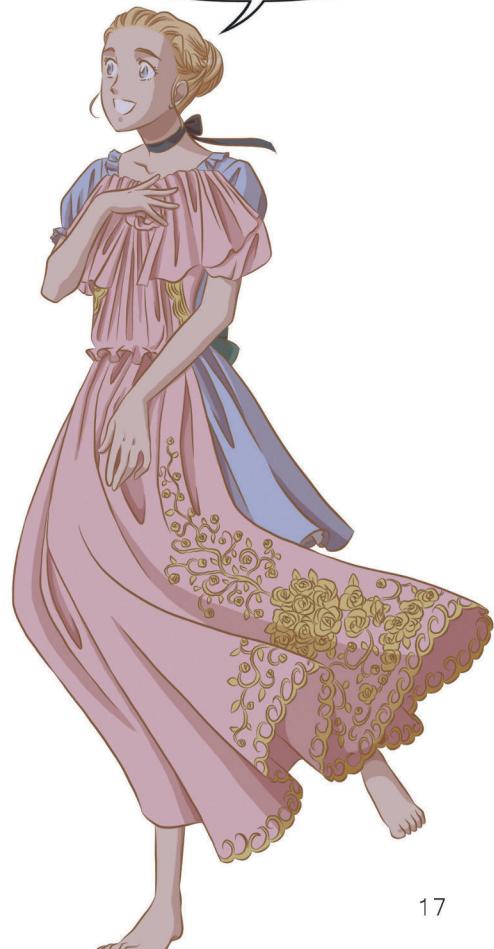
I WILL.











UNFORTUNATELY, I RAN OUT OF TIME. WHAT WITH MY GRUMBLING STOMACH AND MY POOR EYES STRAINING TO SEE IN THE DARK, I BROKE DOWN AND CRIED.

WOULD THIS HELP YOU FINISH THE JOB?

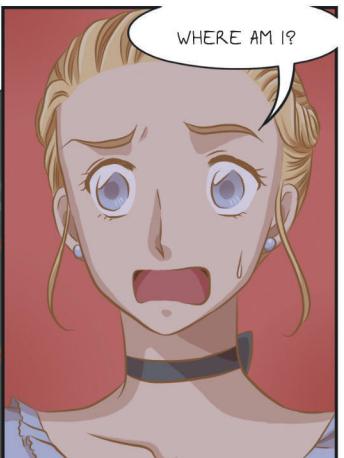
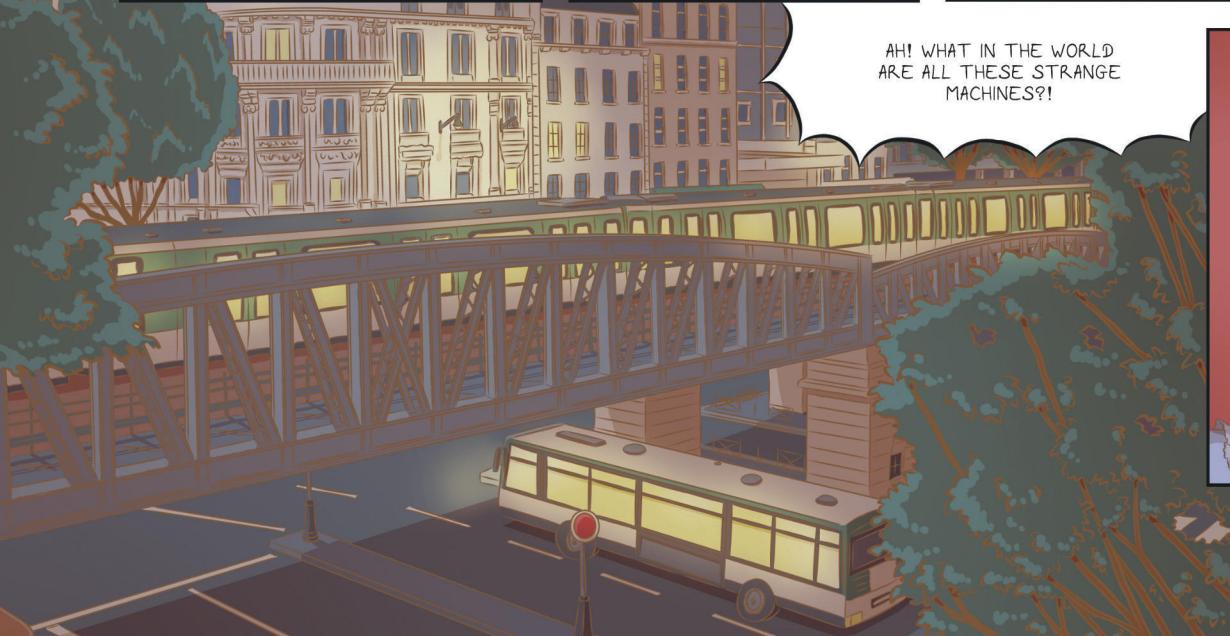
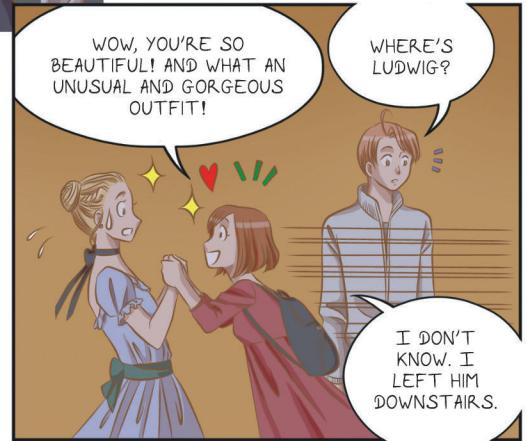
CLIC!

WHAT IS THAT? A LAMP FILLED WITH MAGICAL OIL?

IT'S A FLASHLIGHT.

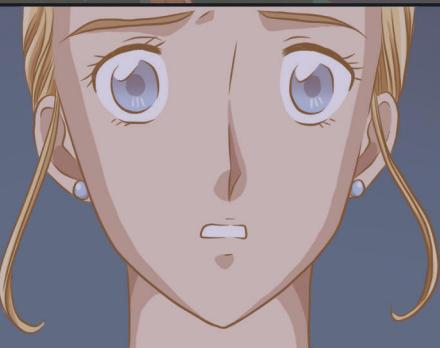
WANT IT? IT'S YOURS.

TH-THANK YOU. I HOPE I'LL USE IT CORRECTLY...



I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE! AND I WAS BORN AT THE TURN OF THE 19TH CENTURY! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

THE QUESTION YOU SHOULD BE ASKING IS, "WHAT YEAR IS IT?" THIS IS THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY!



HOW WILL I KEEP MY PROMISE NOW?

ARE YOU OKAY?

I PROMISED THE MAN IN WHITE I'D RETURN TO THE STAGE TO DANCE THE ROLE OF AURORA. BUT I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO DO THAT NOW!

WHY NOT?
THE BALLET STILL EXISTS!

YES, THIS IS THE PLACE TO BE FOR A DANCER!

WHAT A BUNCH OF GARBAGE!
WHAT IS THIS? SOME NUTJOB ACTING OUT SOME KIND OF FANTASY?

LUDWIG!

A GIRL FROM THE 19TH CENTURY?
YOU DON'T BELIEVE HER, DO YOU?!

SO YOU SURVIVED THE ROSES... HOW UNFORTUNATE...

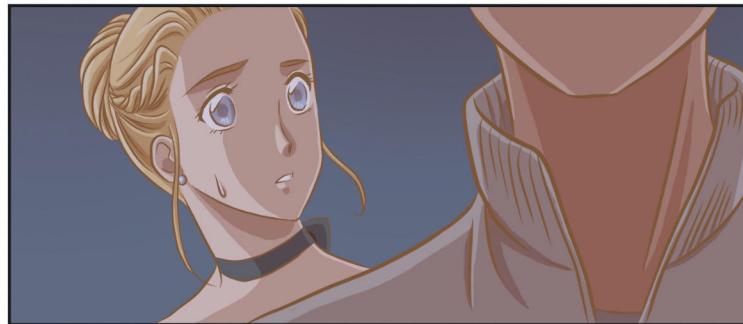
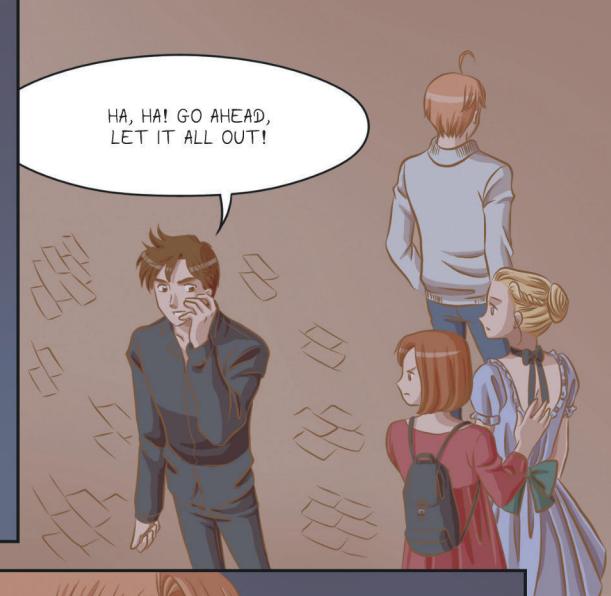
IT WAS NO MEAN FEAT! THERE ARE FLOWERS ALL OVER THE PLACE AROUND HERE!

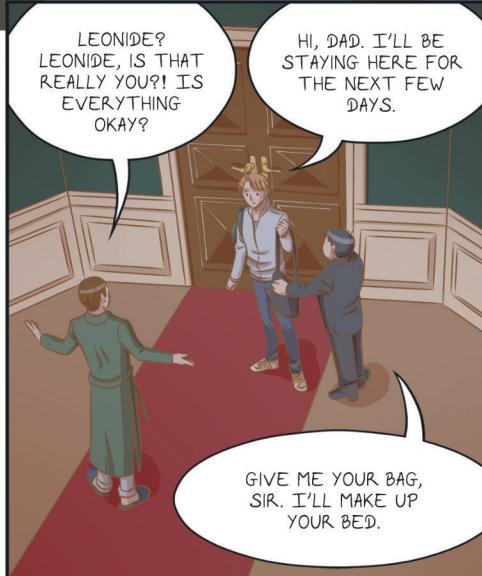
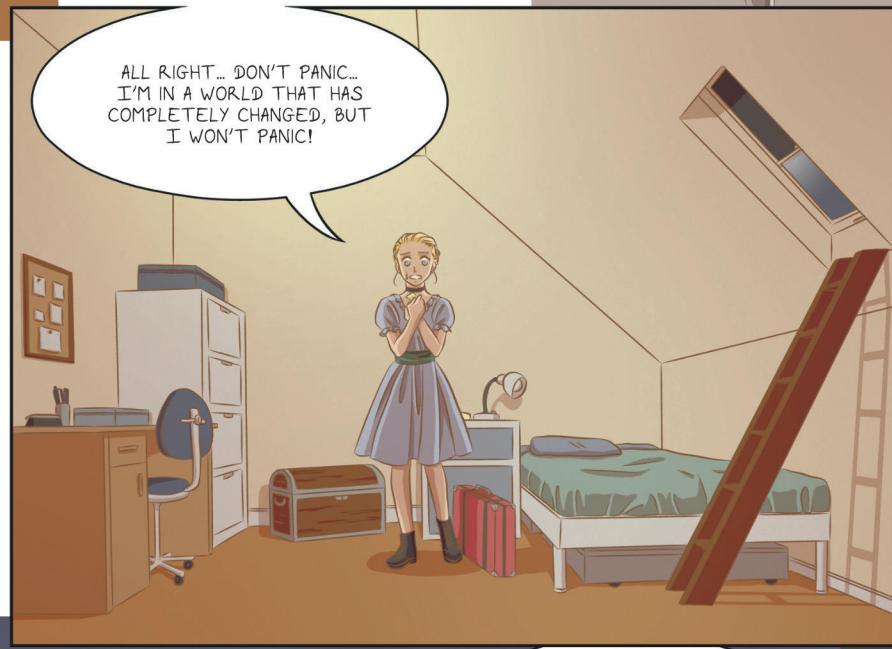
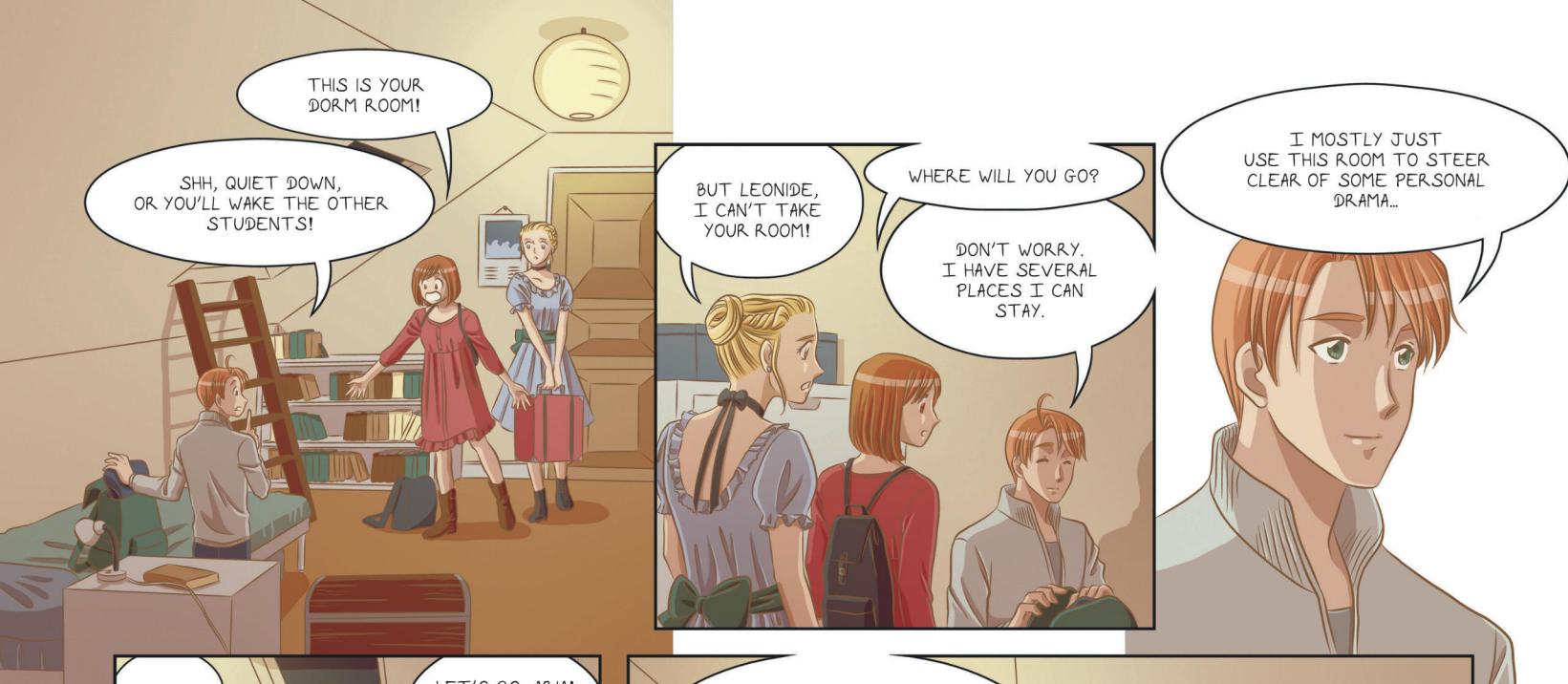
YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME!
I'M A DANCER AT THE GRAND THEATER!

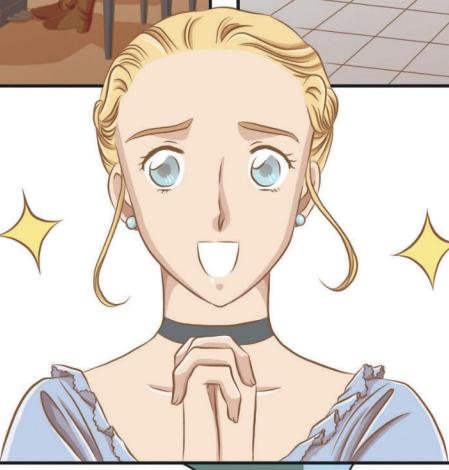
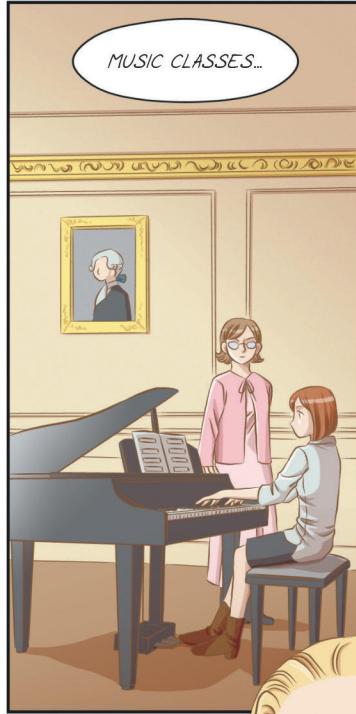
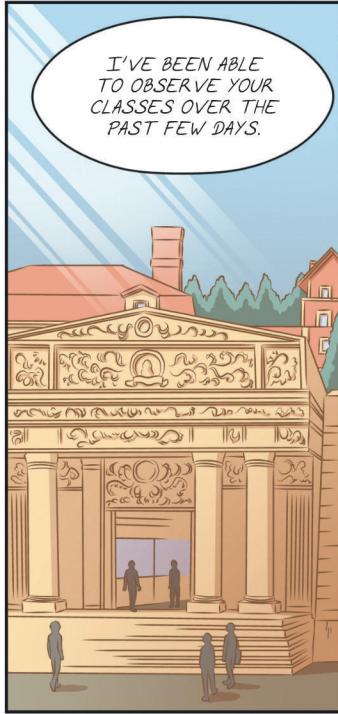
OH REALLY?
I THINK YOU'RE ACTUALLY AN ACTRESS.
AND A PRETTY TALENTED ONE!

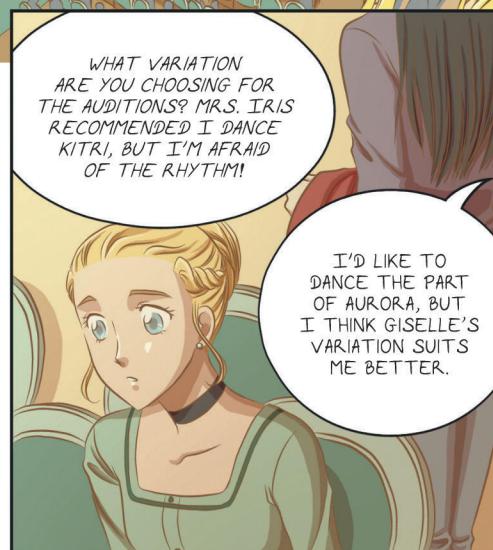
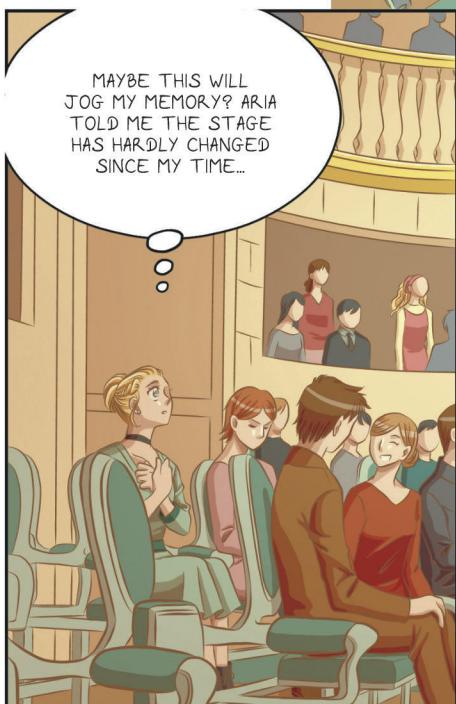
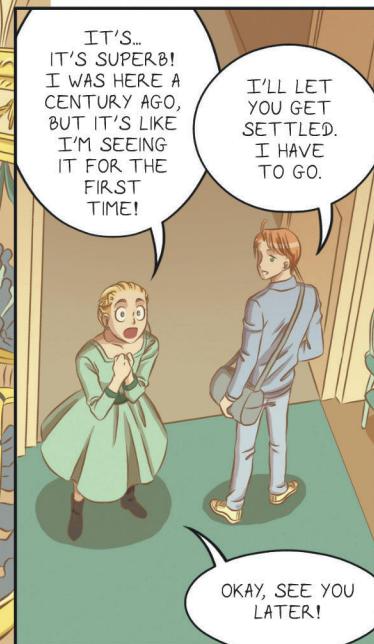
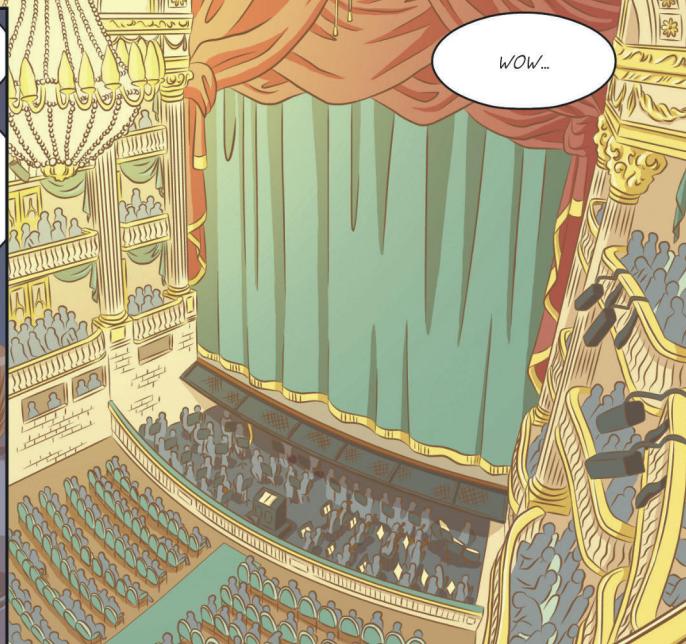
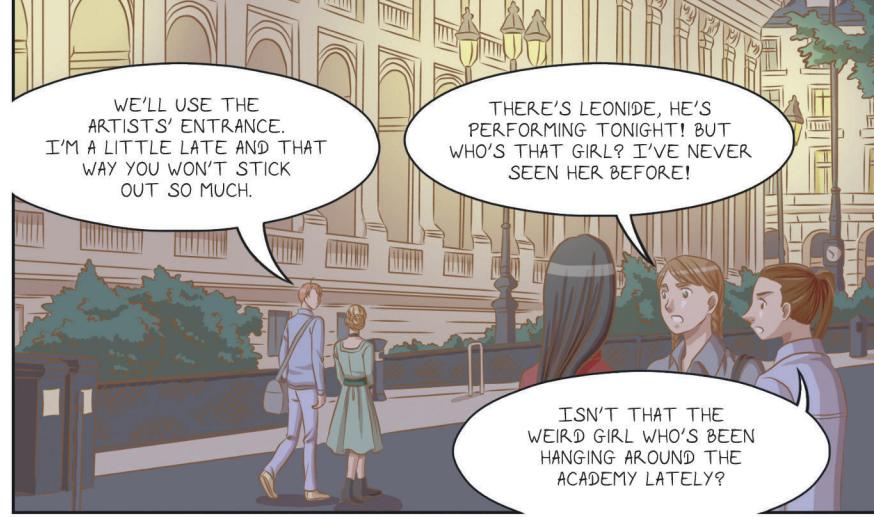
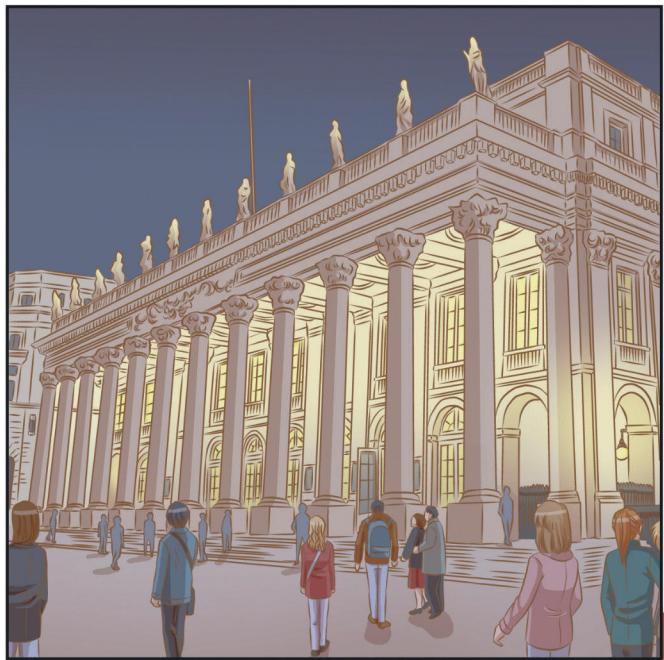
...THEN YOU KNOW WHAT THEY DID TO THOSE GIRLS BACK THEN?

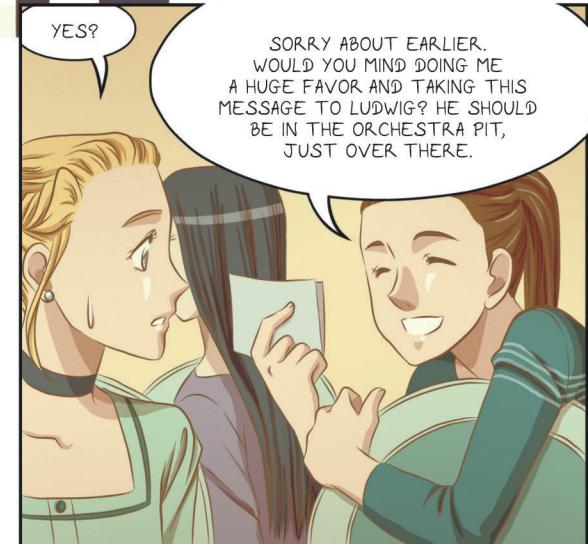
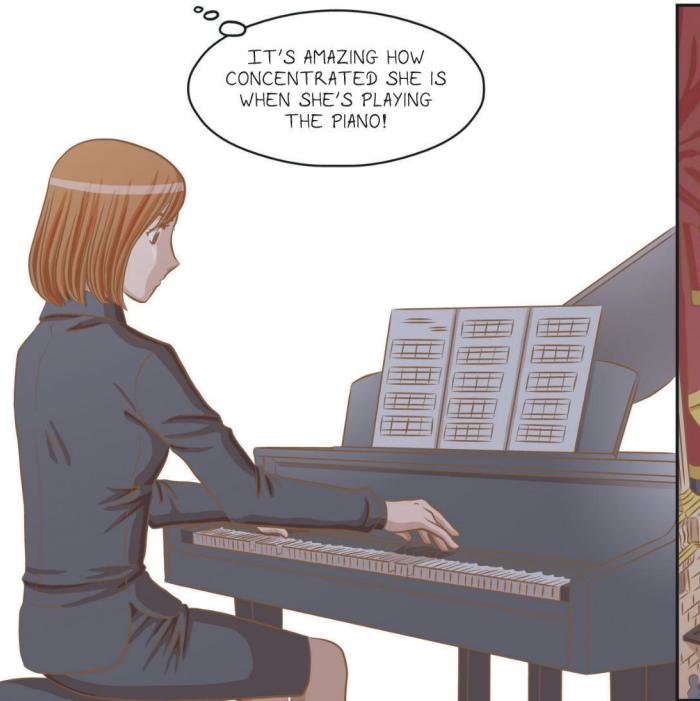
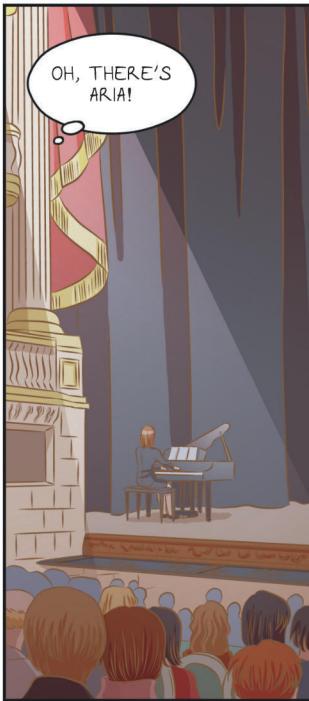
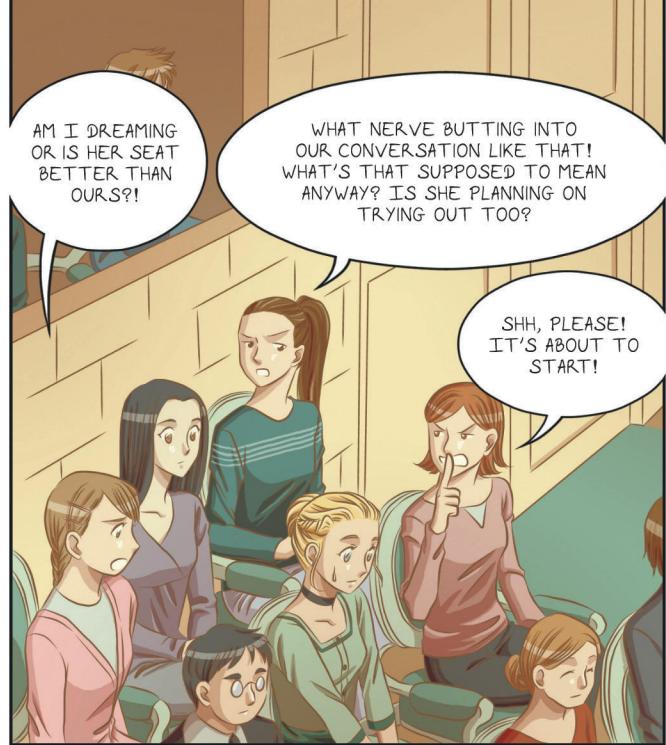
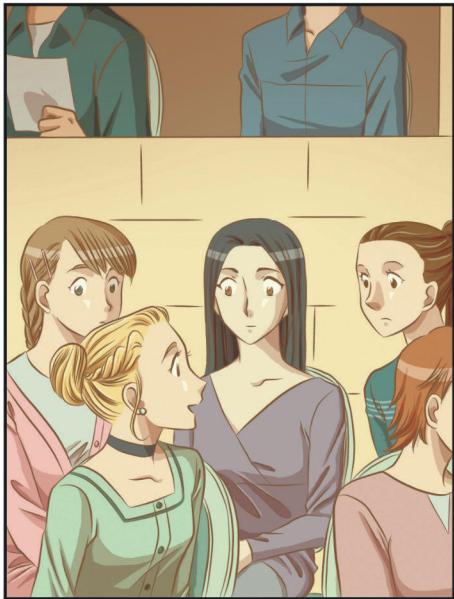
BUT LET'S SUPPOSE YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH...

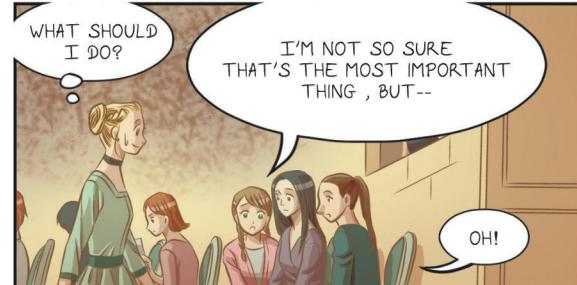
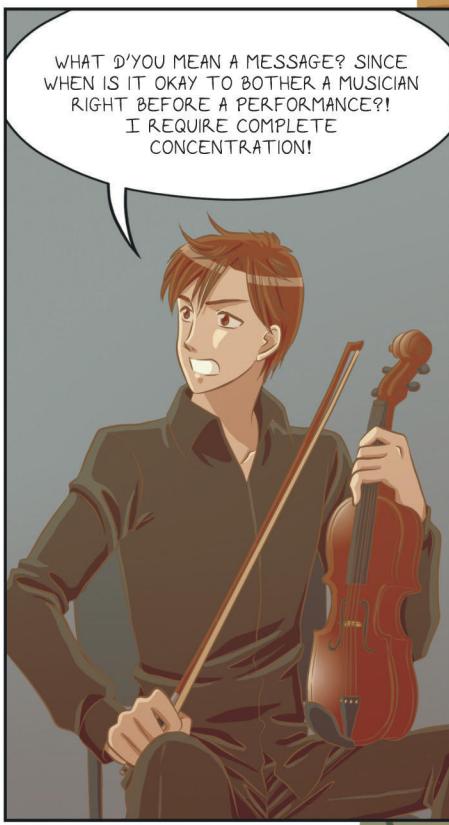
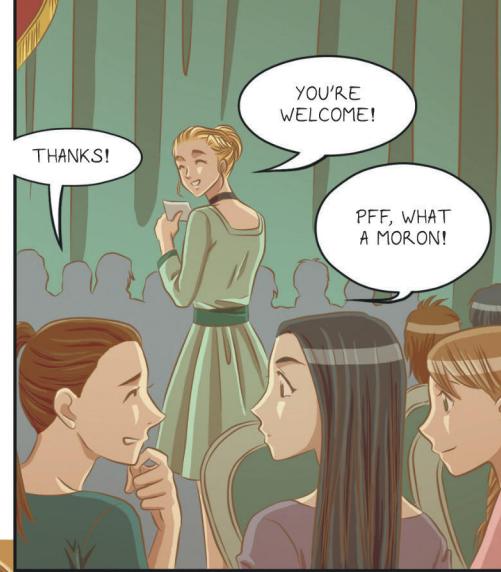
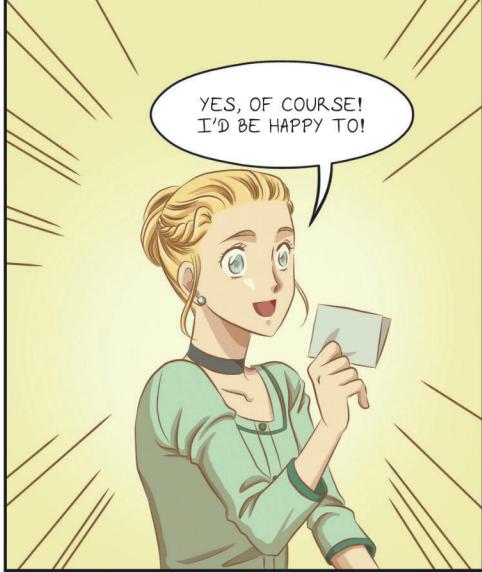


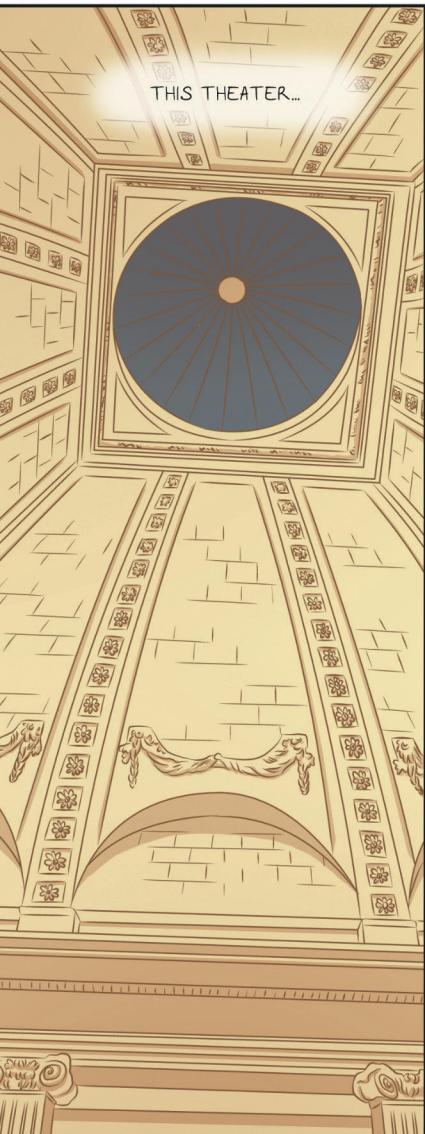
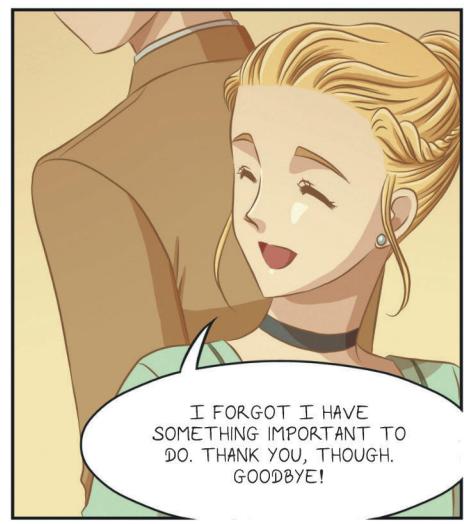
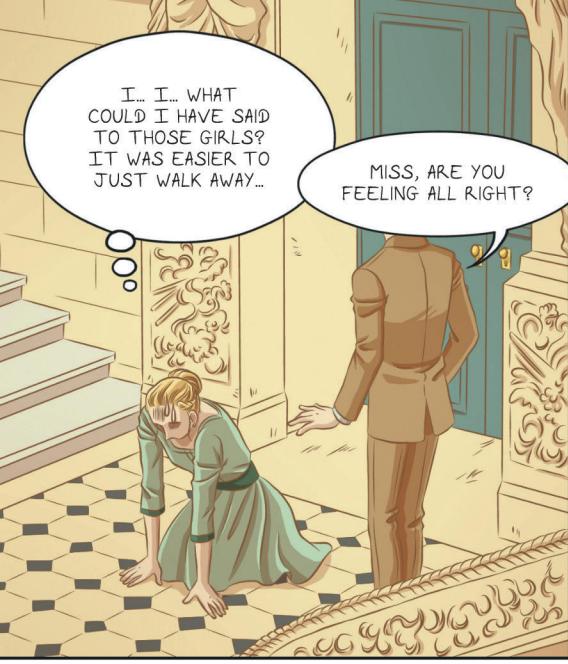












WHAT?! SHE ASKED YOU TO TALK TO LUDWIG IN THE ORCHESTRA PIT?! HE'S IRRITABLE UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT EVERYBODY KNOWS HE'S TEN TIMES WORSE JUST BEFORE A SHOW! HE'S SUCH A WORKAHOLIC, I HEAR HE EVEN PRACTICES THROUGH THE NIGHT!

I'M SURE THOSE DANCE CLASS BRATS SAW YOU WITH LEONIDE BEFOREHAND AND WANTED TO GET BACK AT YOU! NEXT TIME, STAND UP FOR YOURSELF!

MRS. IRIS'S DANCE CLASS STARTS IN THIS STUDIO IN JUST A FEW MINUTES. I ACCOMPANY THEM ON THE PIANO. IF YOU STAY IN THE HALLWAY, NO ONE WILL NOTICE YOU!

YOU CAN HIDE BEHIND THIS WALL. PROMISE ME YOU'LL FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE CLASS FROM HERE!

BUT I'M NOT PROPERLY DRESSED!

I THOUGHT OF THAT! HERE! DEMI-POINTE SHOES!

YOU'VE GOTTA SHOW THEM WHAT YOU'VE GOT! IF YOU WANT TO TRY OUT, YOU HAVE TO PRACTICE!

IT'S NOTHING! YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO WARM UP AND JUMP WITH THESE!

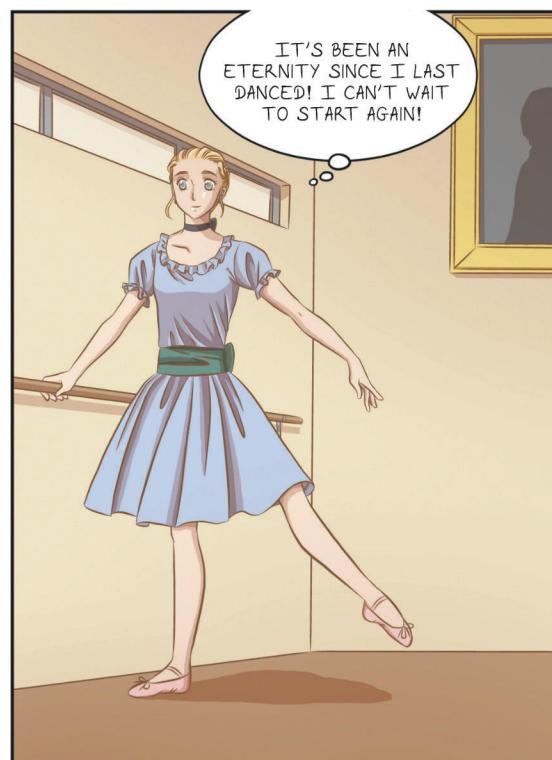
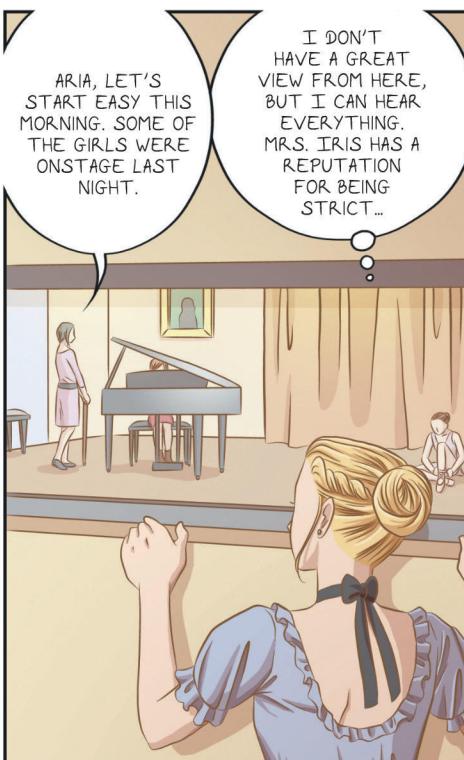
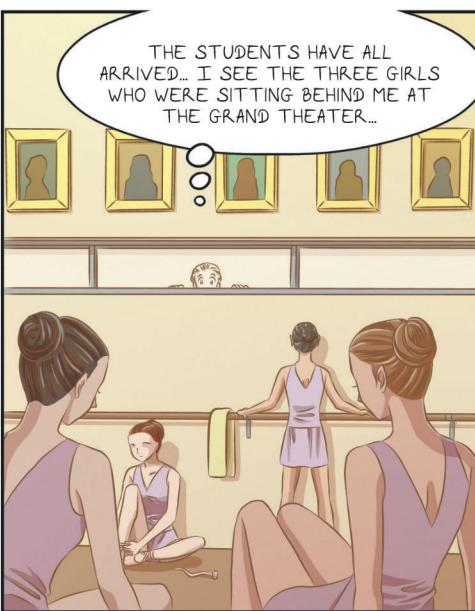
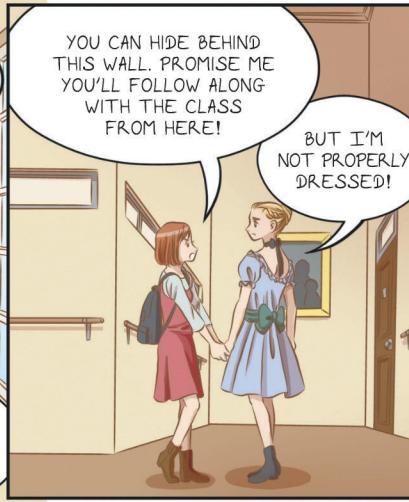
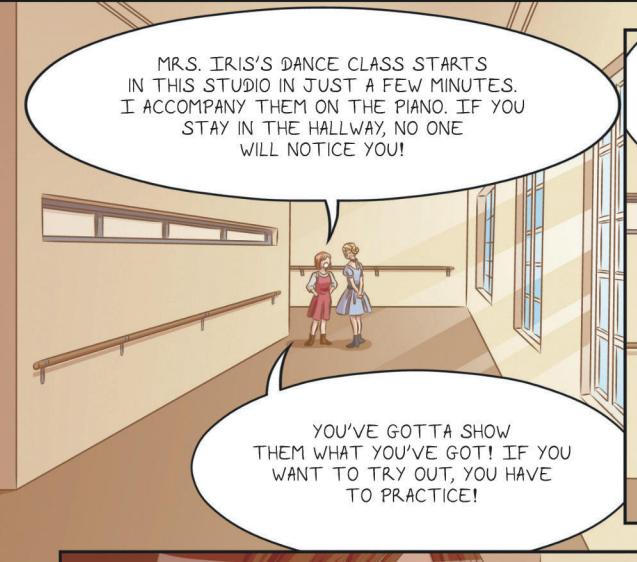
THANK YOU, ARIA! THAT'S SO KIND!

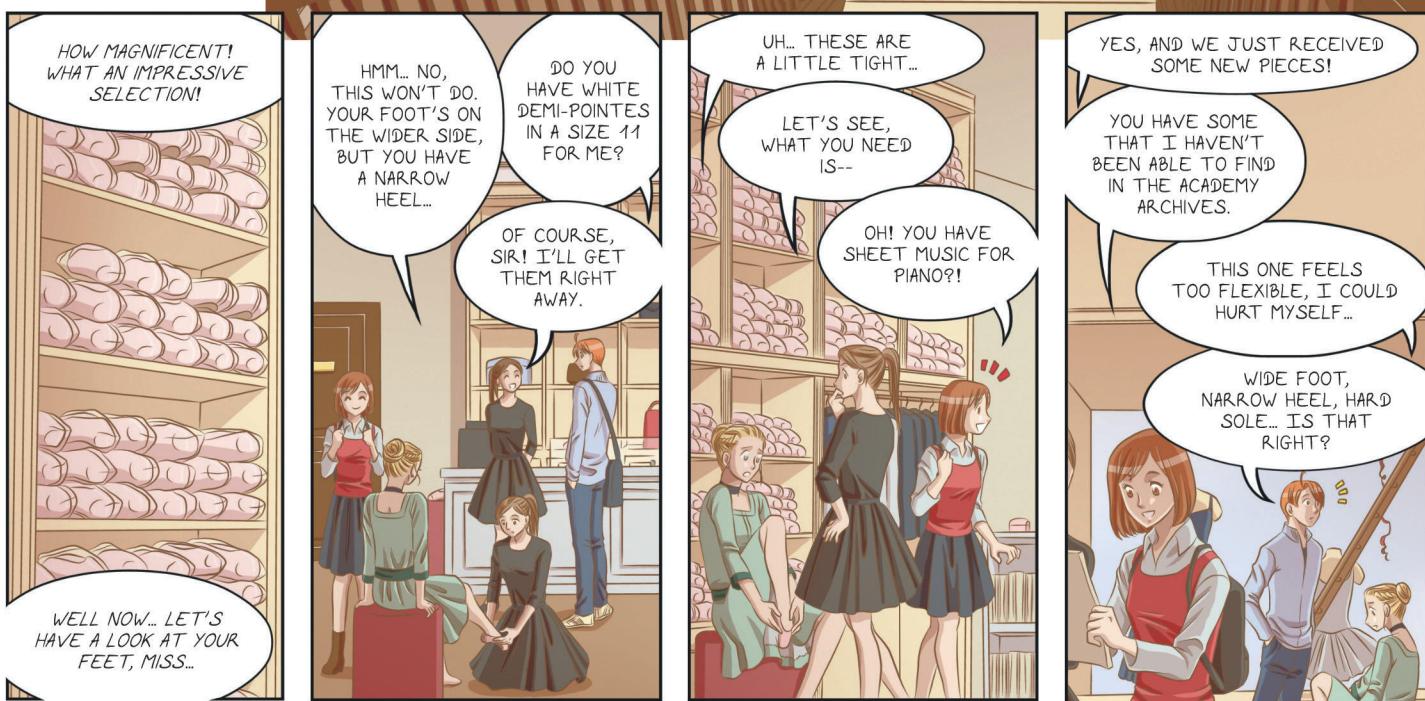
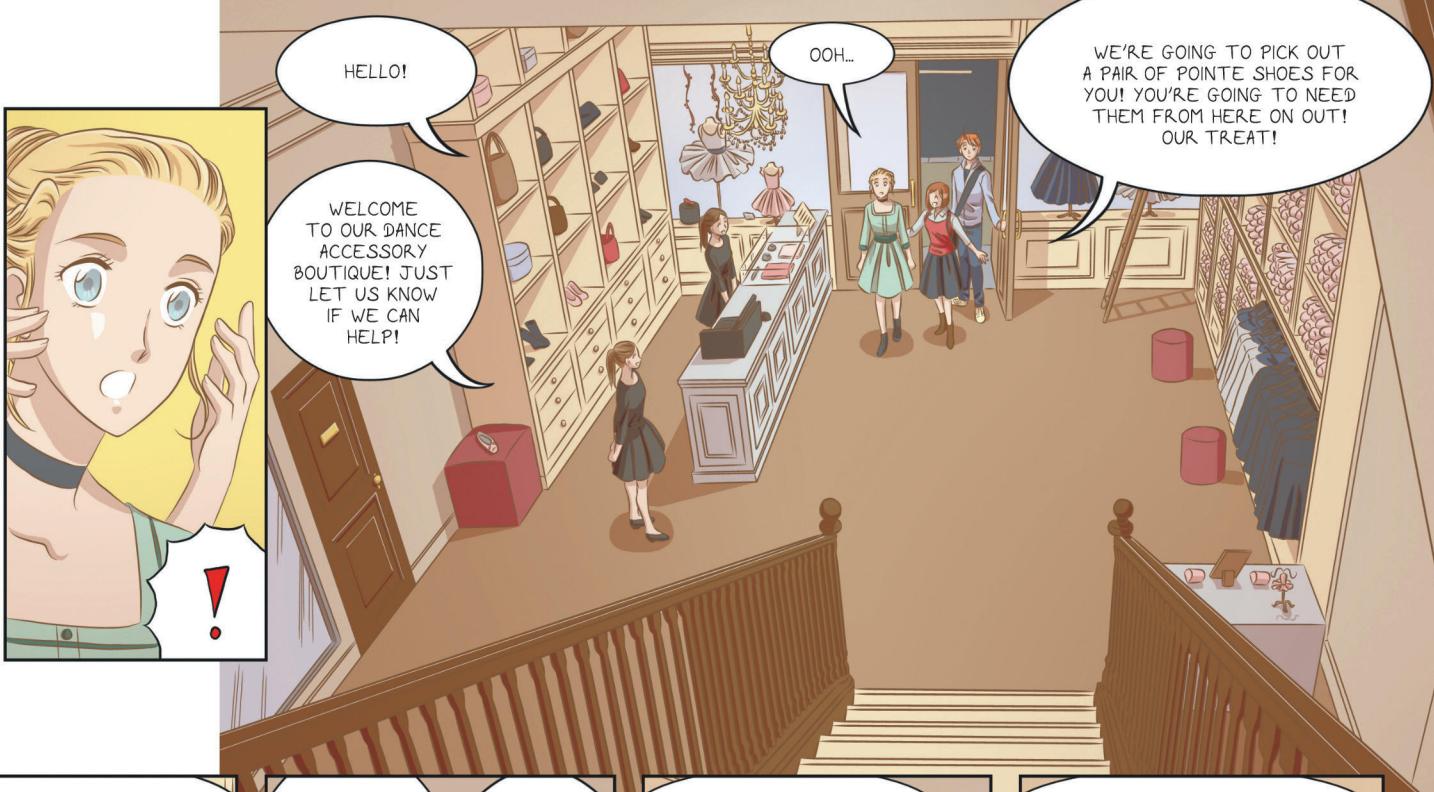
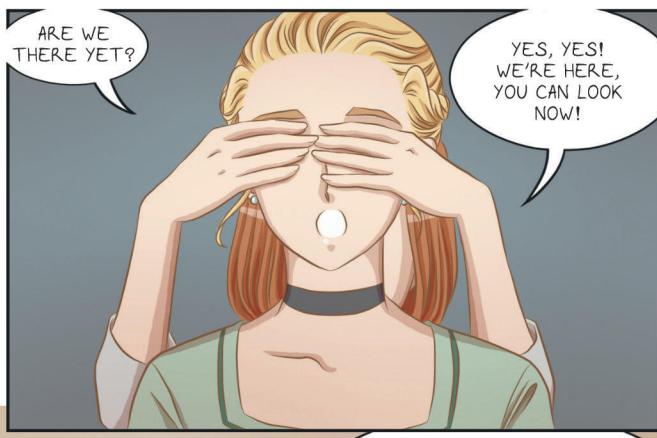
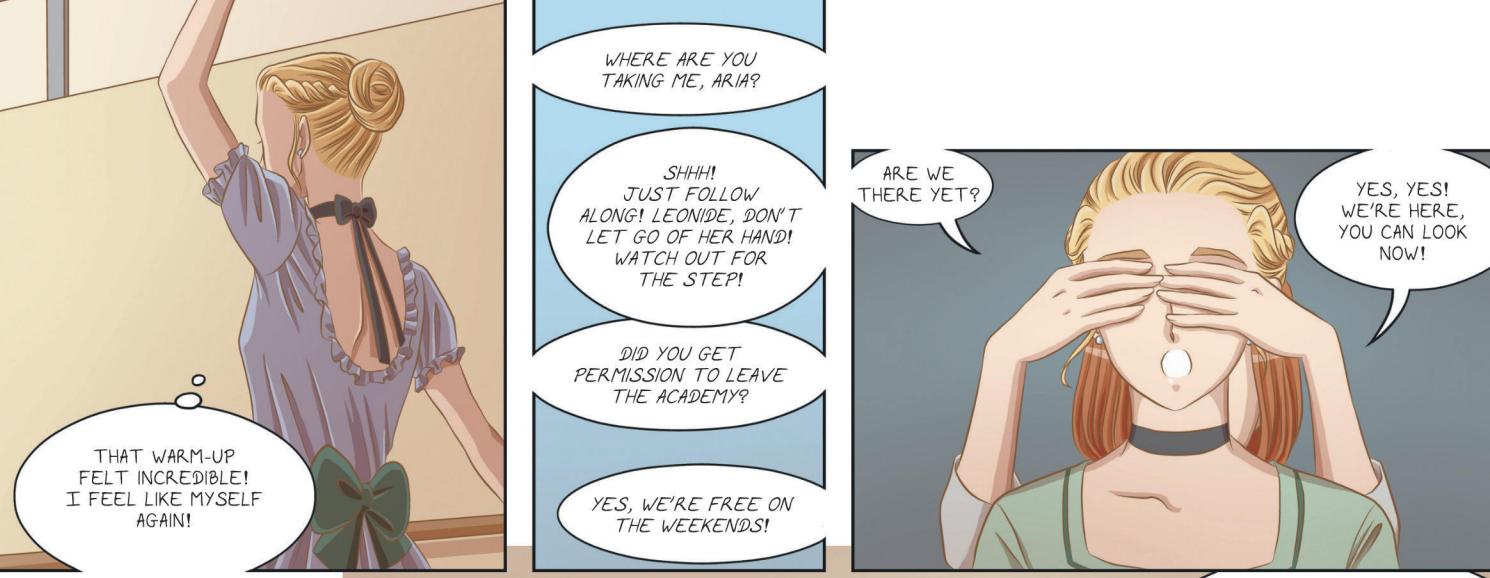
THE STUDENTS HAVE ALL ARRIVED... I SEE THE THREE GIRLS WHO WERE SITTING BEHIND ME AT THE GRAND THEATER...

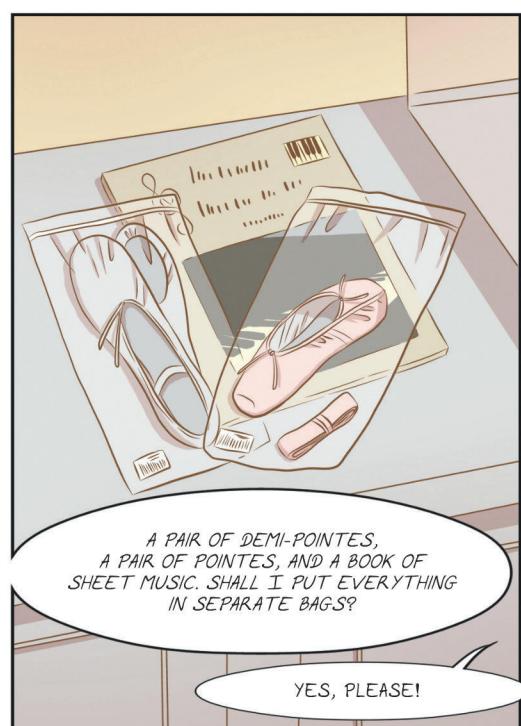
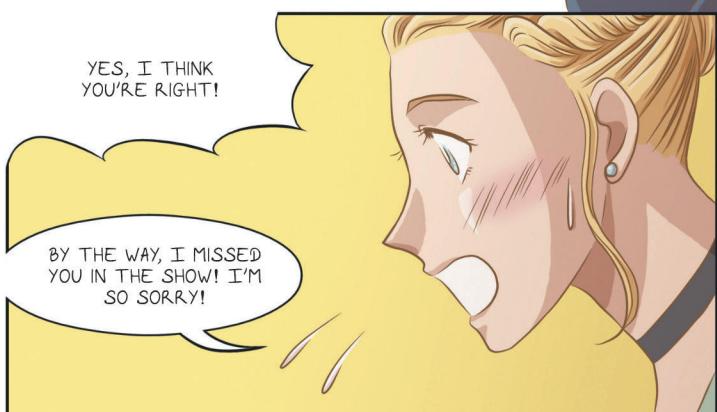
ARIA, LET'S START EASY THIS MORNING. SOME OF THE GIRLS WERE ONSTAGE LAST NIGHT.

I DON'T HAVE A GREAT VIEW FROM HERE, BUT I CAN HEAR EVERYTHING. MRS. IRIS HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING STRICT...

IT'S BEEN AN ETERNITY SINCE I LAST DANCED! I CAN'T WAIT TO START AGAIN!





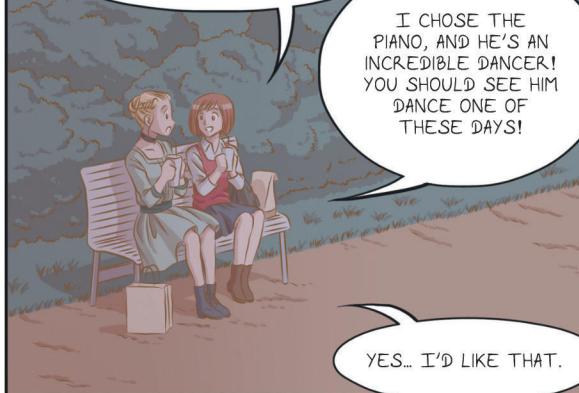


ARIA, I WAS WONDERING, HAVE YOU AND LEONIDE KNOWN EACH OTHER LONG?

YES, SINCE WE WERE KIDS!



AT THE ACADEMY, STUDENTS HAVE CLASS TOGETHER IN THE MORNINGS. BUT IN THE AFTERNOONS, EVERYONE WORKS ON THEIR ART.

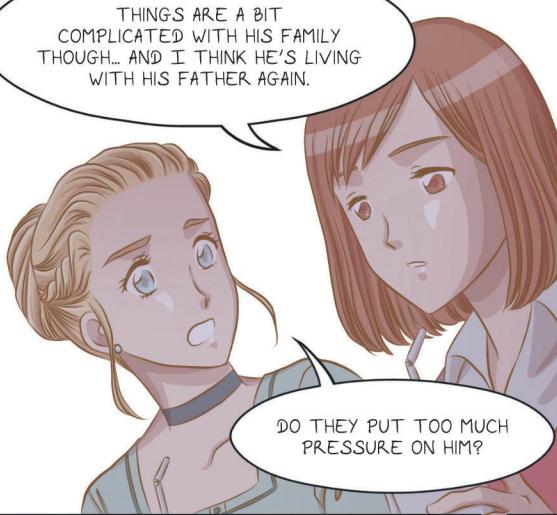


I CHOSE THE PIANO, AND HE'S AN INCREDIBLE DANCER! YOU SHOULD SEE HIM DANCE ONE OF THESE DAYS!

YES... I'D LIKE THAT.

THINGS ARE A BIT COMPLICATED WITH HIS FAMILY THOUGH... AND I THINK HE'S LIVING WITH HIS FATHER AGAIN.

DO THEY PUT TOO MUCH PRESSURE ON HIM?



THERE'S THAT... AND THEY'RE VERY WELL OFF, SO HE HAS TO ATTEND A LOT OF BORING SOCIAL EVENTS.



UNFORTUNATELY, THAT MEANS HE HAS TO SPEND TIME WITH THE PERSON WHO DESPISES HIM THE MOST IN THE WORLD...

YOU'RE LATE. YOU MISSED DINNER WITH OUR MOST IMPORTANT PATRONS...



IF YOU PLAN ON LIVING HERE AGAIN, YOU'D BETTER GET WITH THE PROGRAM.

MOTHER WAS FURIOUS. GOD KNOWS HOW SHE STILL MANAGES TO TOLERATE YOU!



WHAT?! LEONIDE AND LUDWIG ARE HALF-BROTHERS!?

YES, BUT THEY'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO STAND ONE ANOTHER... THAT'S WHY THEY OPTED FOR DORM ROOMS, ALTHOUGH LUDWIG SPENDS A LOT MORE TIME AT THE FAMILY MANOR.

SORRY, I HAD MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO TONIGHT...



I HAVE NO IDEA WHY GRANDFATHER HASN'T CUT YOU OUT OF HIS WILL YET.

YOU'LL NEVER AMOUNT TO ANYTHING. YOU'LL ALWAYS BE THE BLACK SHEEP OF THE FAMILY!

I KNOW! YOU'VE BEEN TELLING ME THAT SINCE YOU LEARNED TO TALK, REMEMBER?



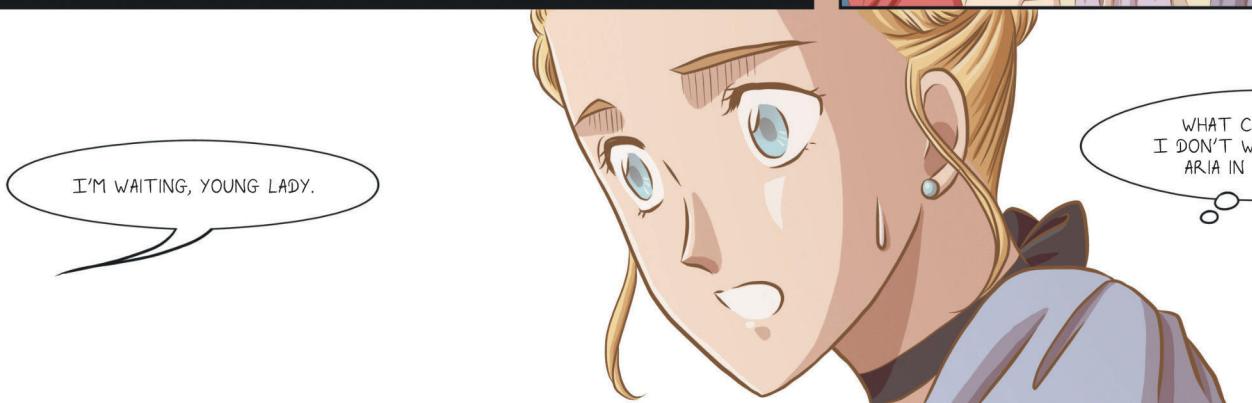
FATHER AND MOTHER ARE WAITING FOR YOU IN THE STUDY, AND IT'S NOT FOR A ROUND OF CARDS...



SOMEONE TOLD ME THAT AN INTRUDER WAS SECRETLY TAKING MY CLASS, BUT I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT.

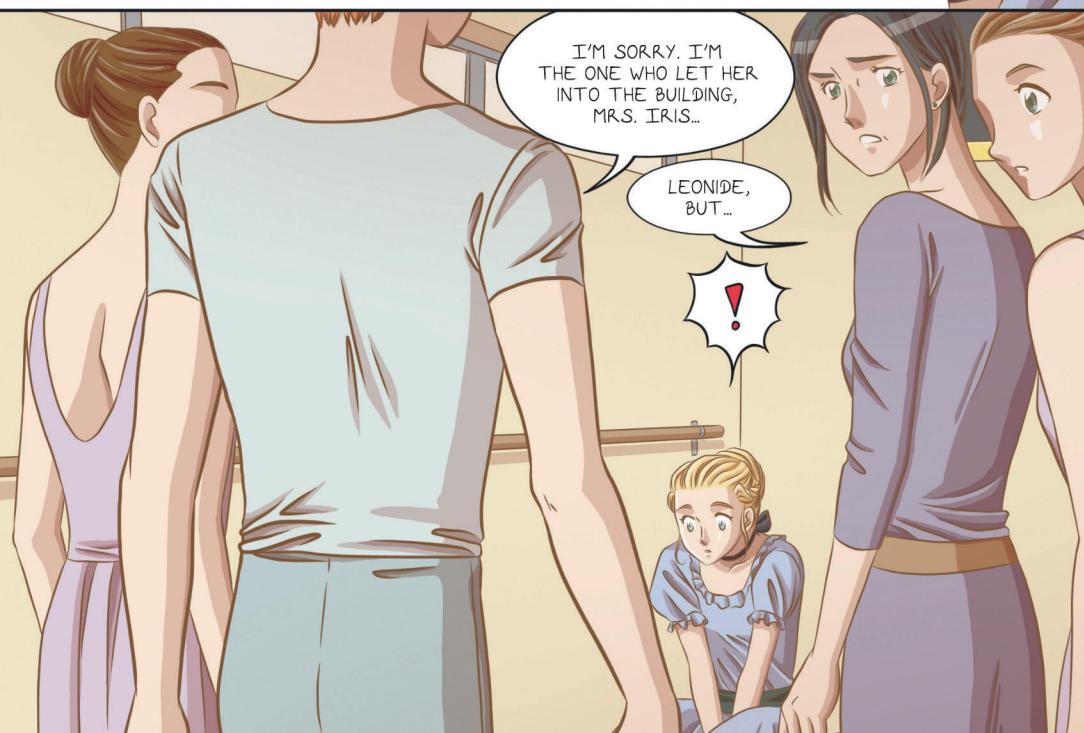
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, YOUNG LADY? HOW DID YOU GET IN? WHO ALLOWED YOU TO ENTER THESE PREMISES?

SO-SORRY!
IT'S MY FAULT,
I...



WHAT CAN I SAY?
I DON'T WANT TO GET ARIA IN TROUBLE!

I...



IN THE FUTURE, DON'T LET ME CATCH YOU HANGING AROUND THE ACADEMY HALLS.

I TRUST LEONIDE, BUT I WON'T TOLERATE THIS KIND OF INTRUSION AGAIN.

WE'RE JUST LUCKY IT REALLY IS AUDITION TIME! HERE'S THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING.

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAKE SURE YOU TURN IT IN BEFORE TOMORROW NIGHT.

UM, OKAY. BUT APART FROM MY FIRST AND LAST NAME, THERE ISN'T MUCH I'LL BE ABLE TO FILL OUT.

JUST DO THE BEST YOU CAN.

DON'T FORGET: TOMORROW'S THE LAST DAY TO SIGN UP!

LEONIDE, I... THANK YOU FOR COVERING FOR ME EARLIER!

I'M SORRY TO CAUSE YOU AND ARIA SO MUCH TROUBLE!

I... I FOUND OUT THAT LUDWIG'S YOUR HALF-BROTHER AND THAT HE MAKES LIFE UNBEARABLE FOR YOU AT HOME! I'M SORRY TO BE USING YOUR DORM ROOM!

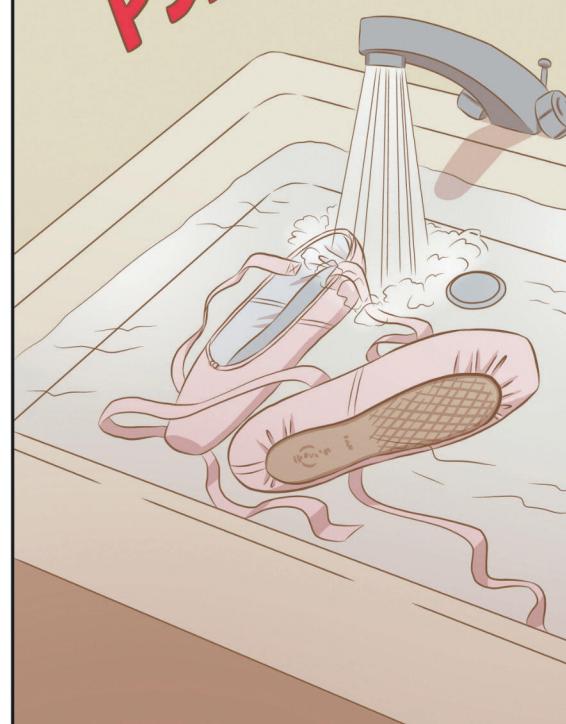
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! COME ON, LET'S GO GET YOUR STUFF.

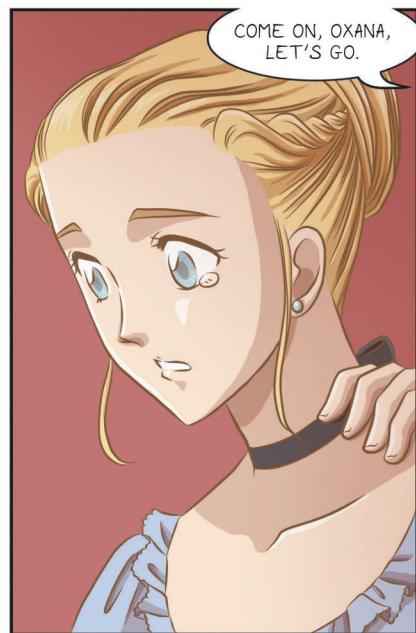
ARE YOU SURE IT WAS IN THIS HALLWAY? THERE'S NOTHING HERE.

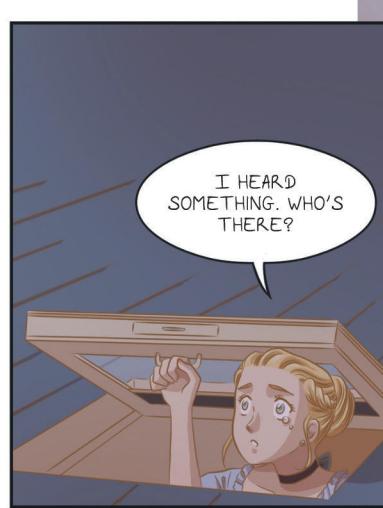
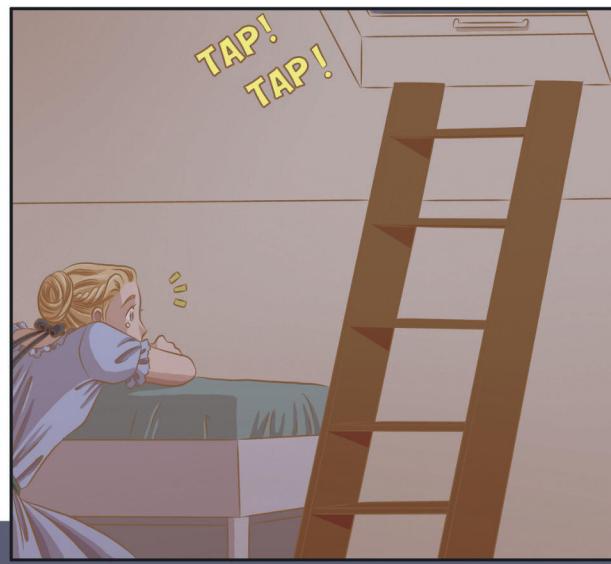
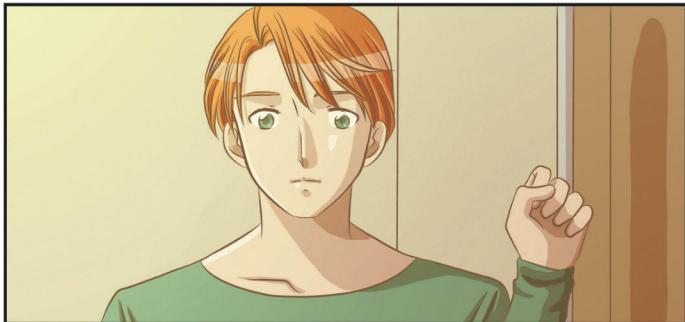
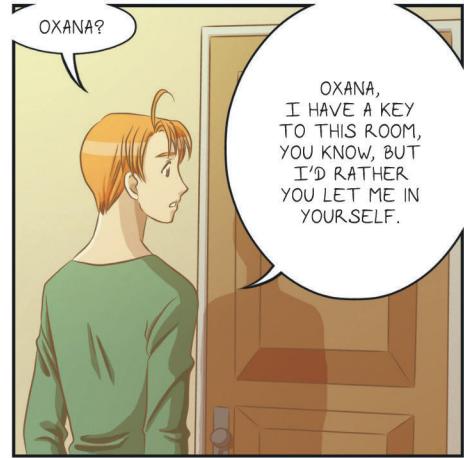
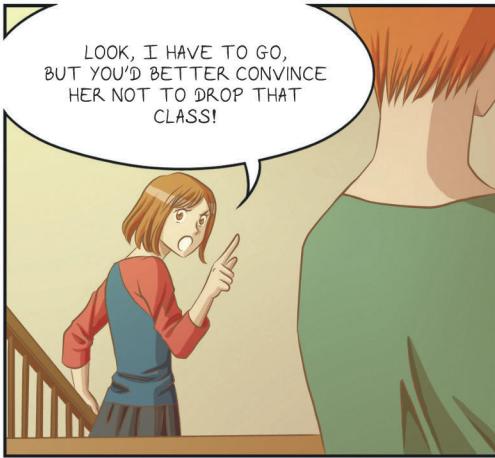
THIS IS DEFINITELY THE PLACE...

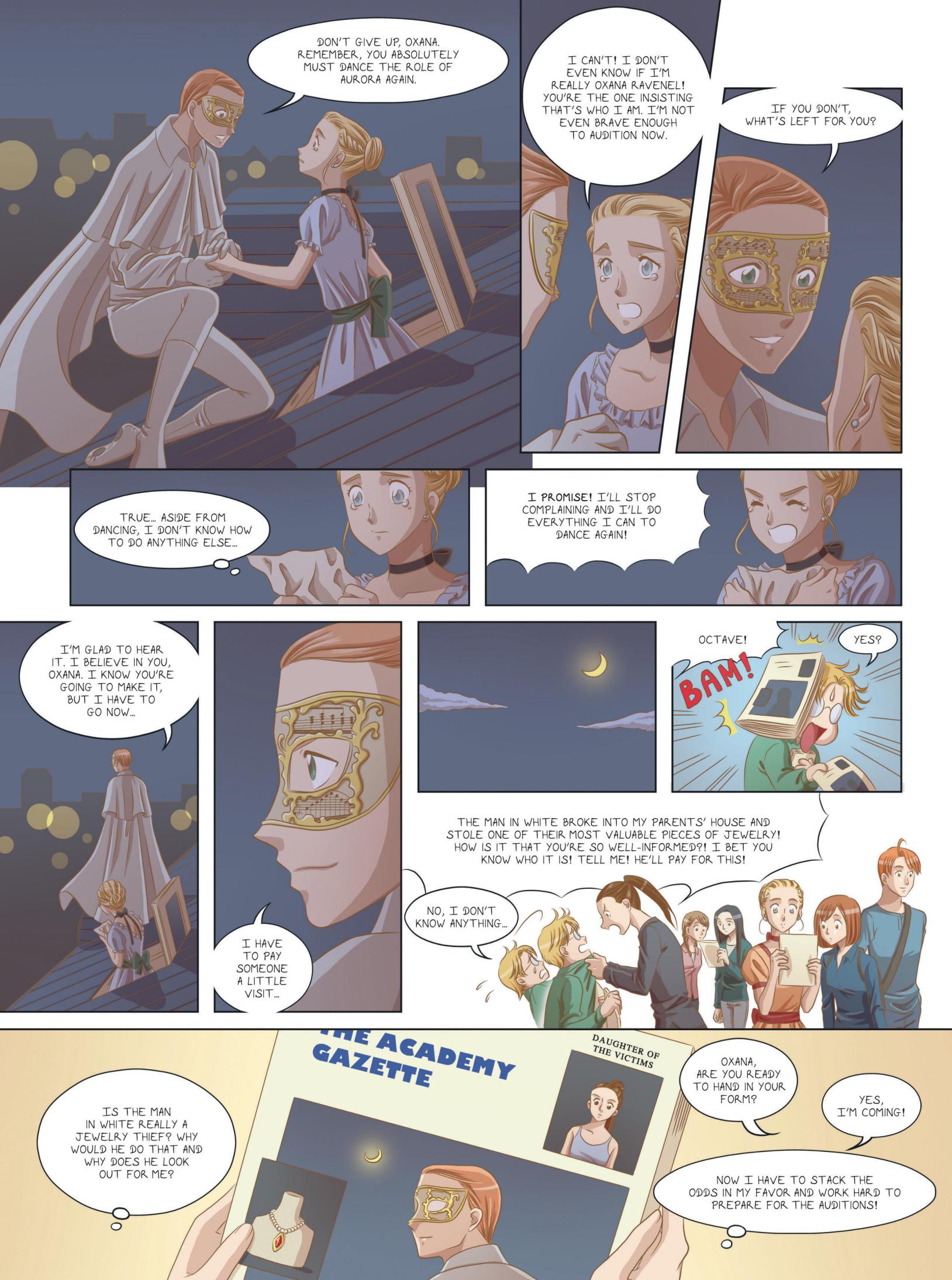
I LEFT MY POINTE SHOES RIGHT THERE... MAYBE THEY'RE IN THE STUDIO OR...

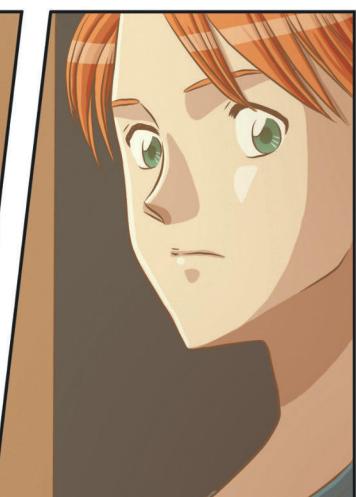
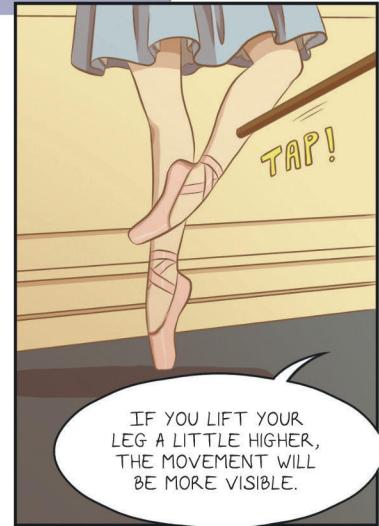
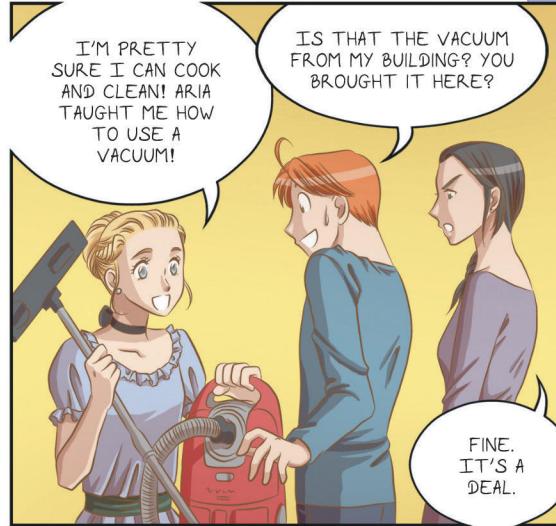
PSHH...

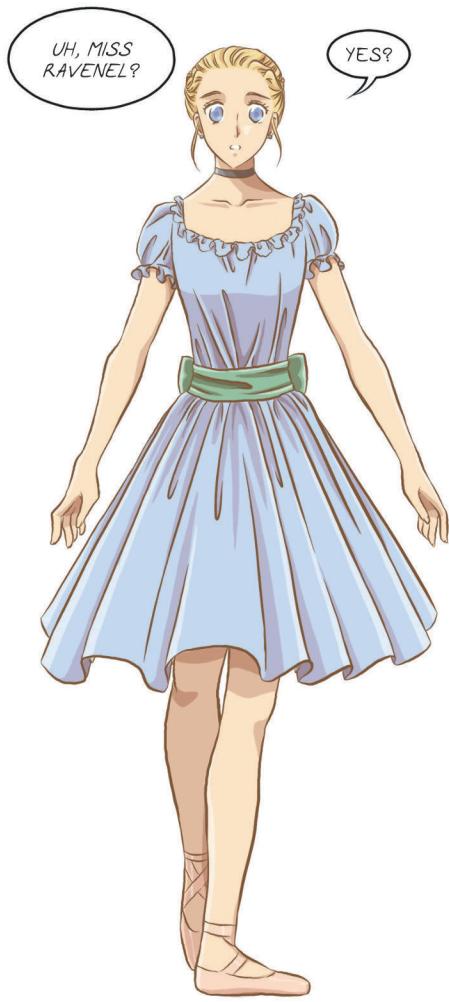
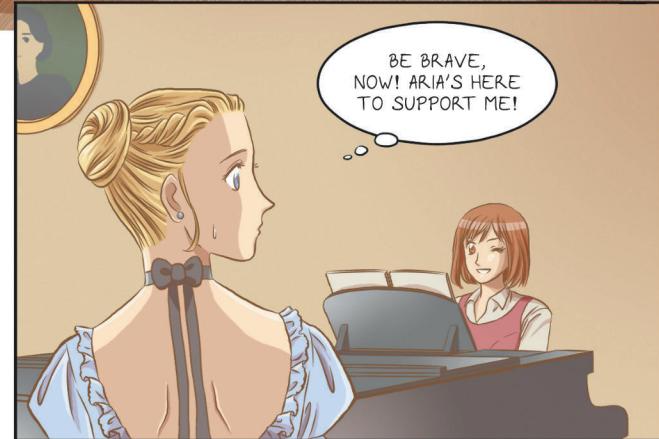




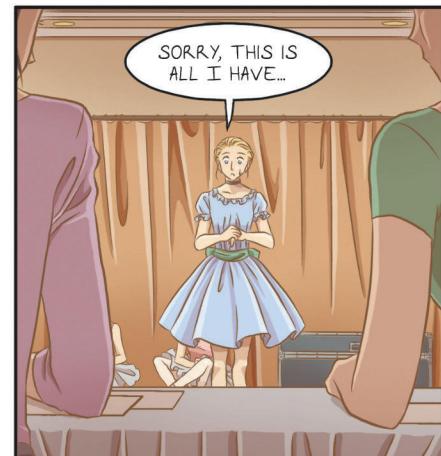
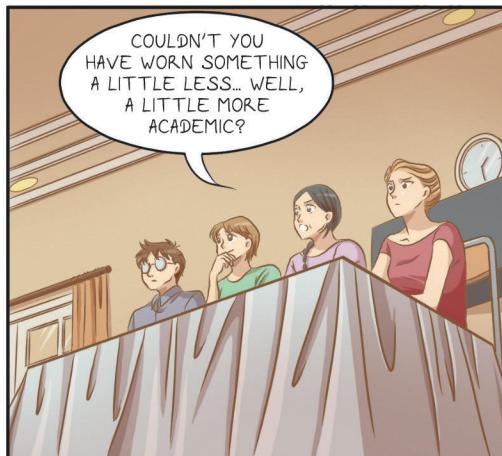


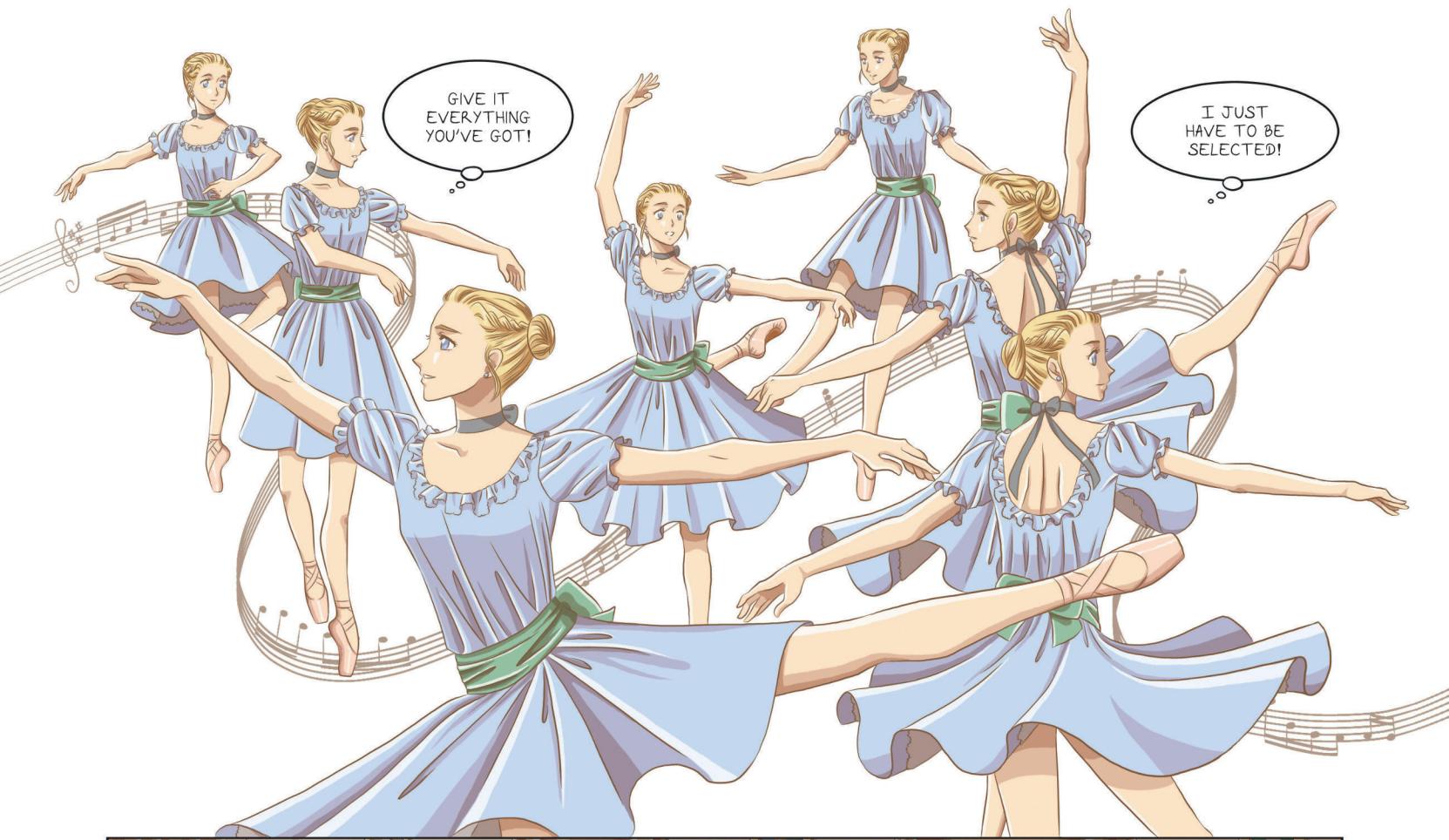


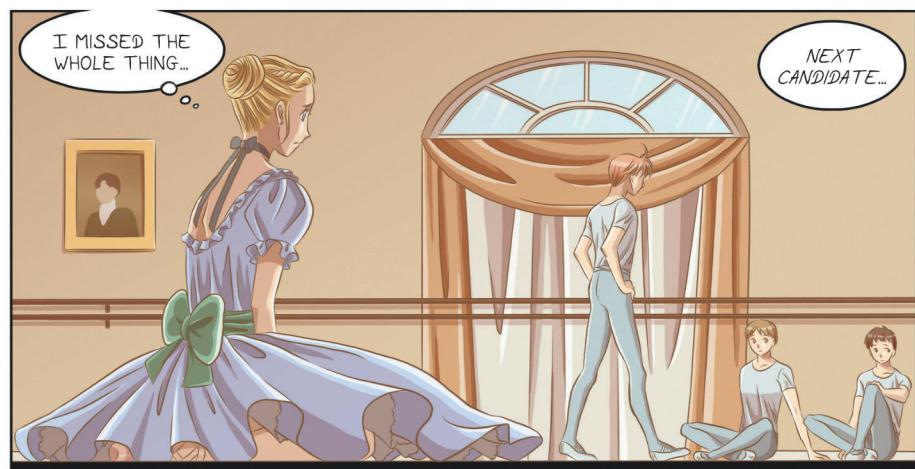
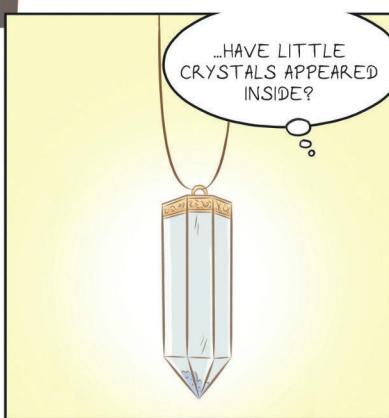
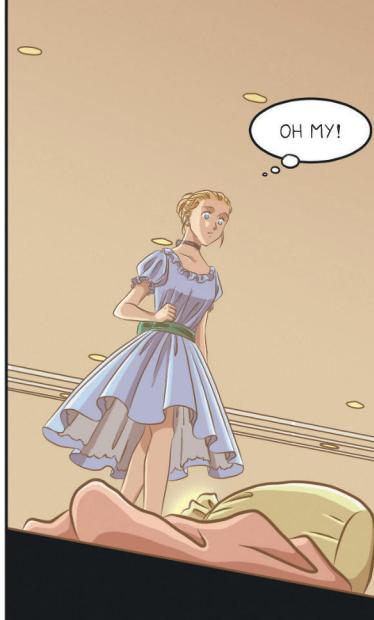
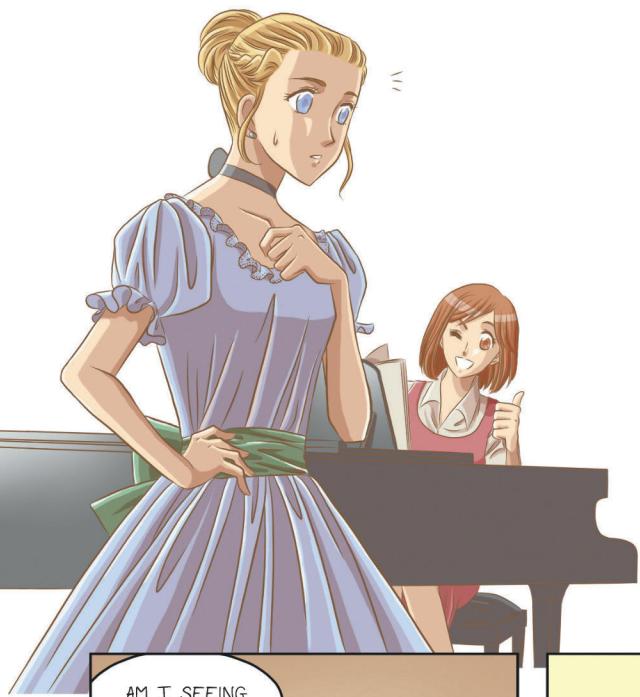


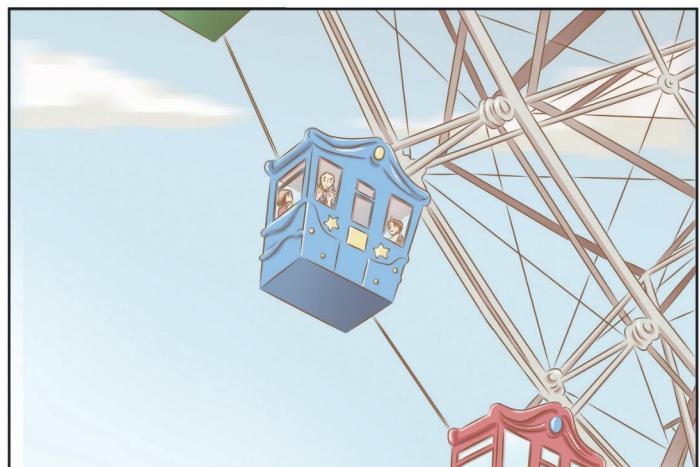
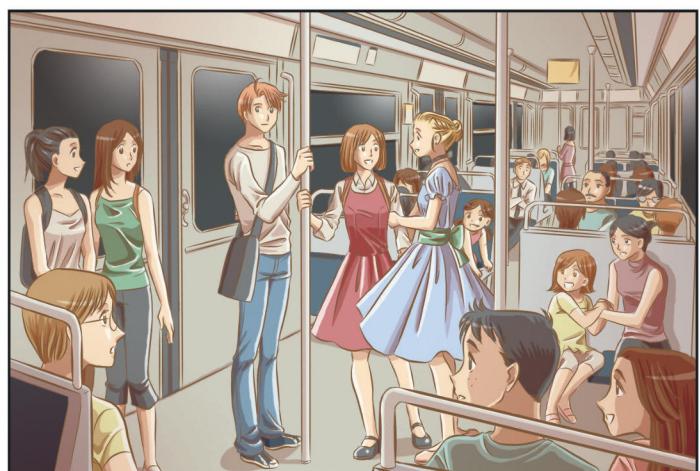
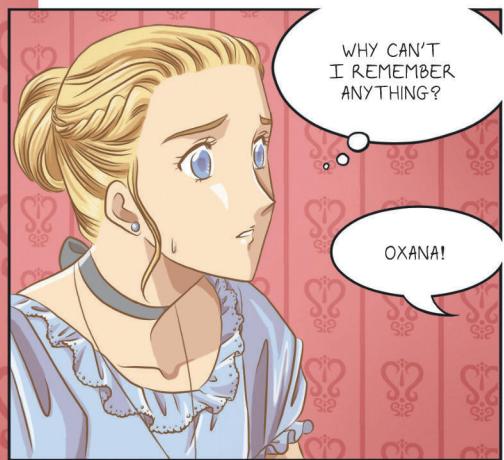
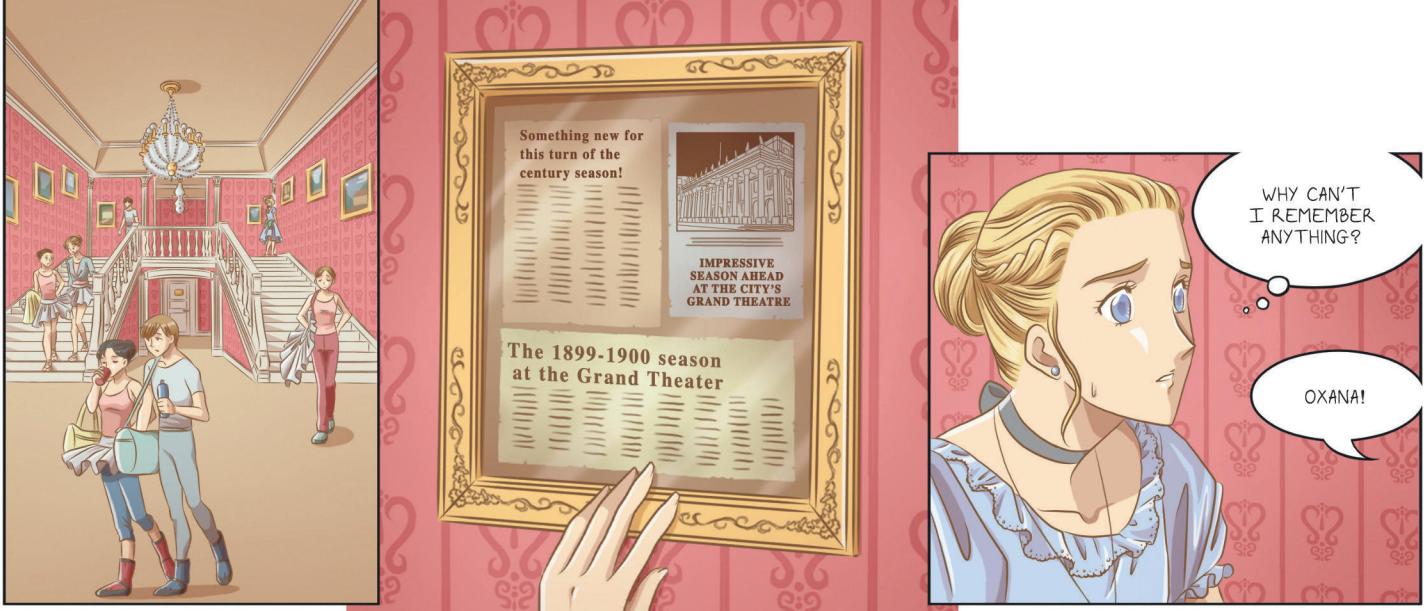


YES?



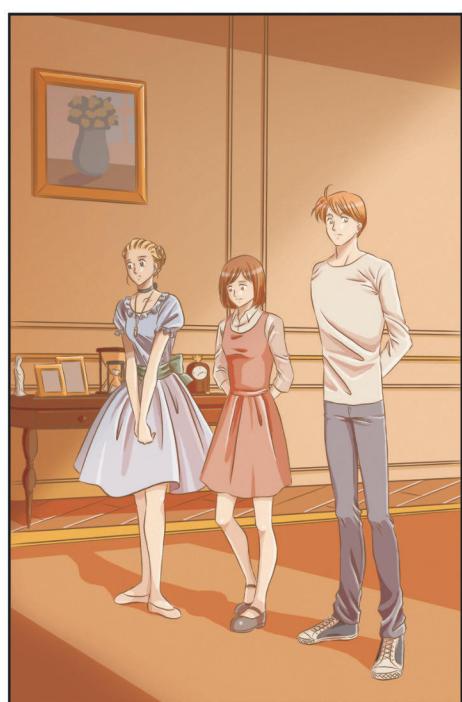
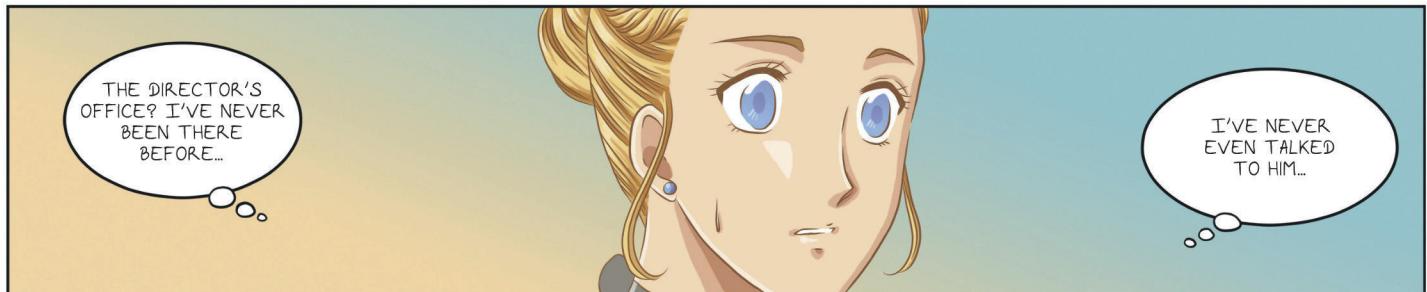
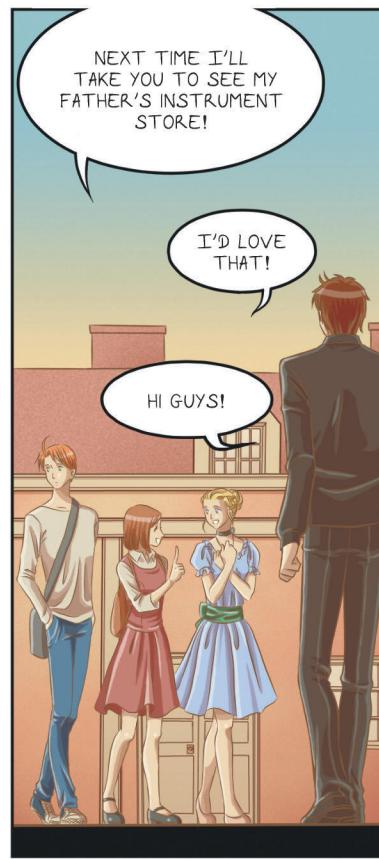


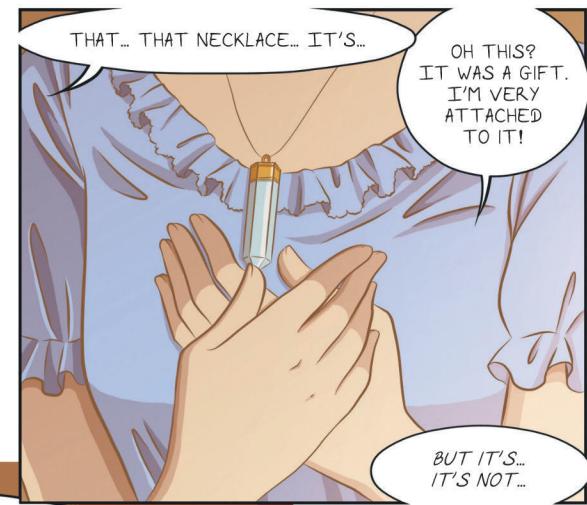




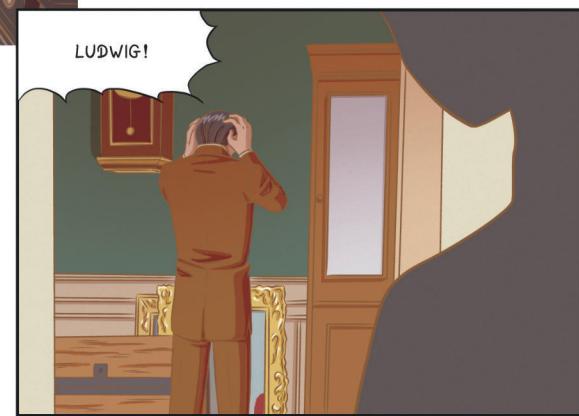


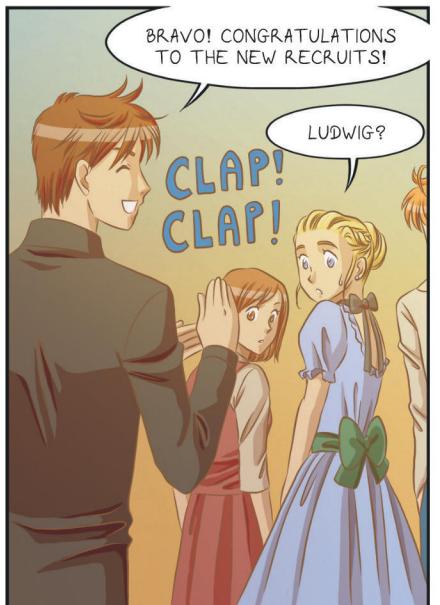
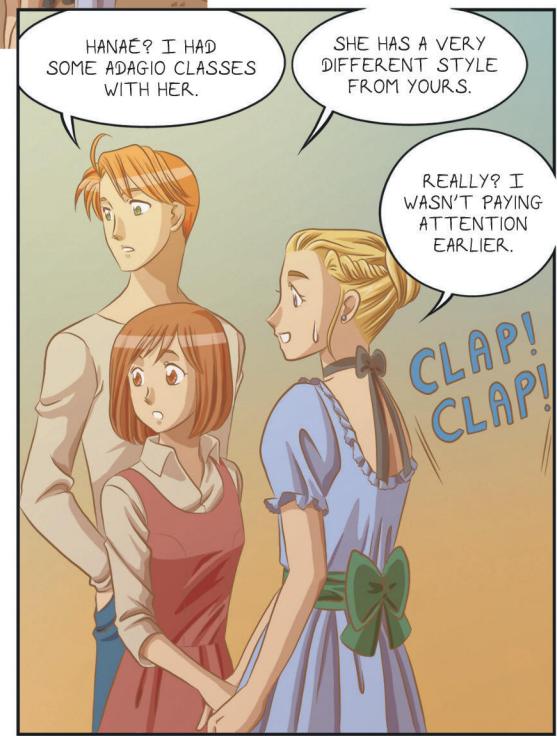
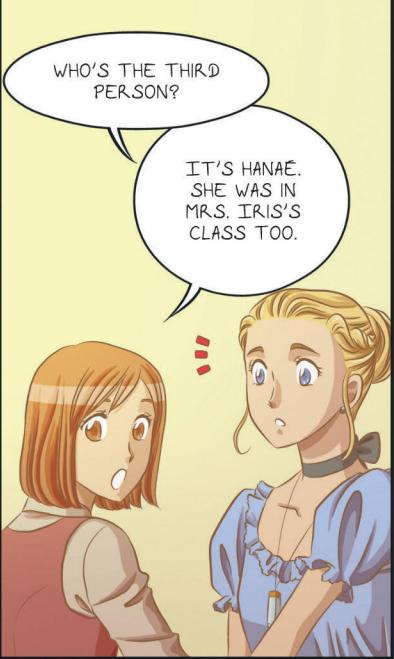
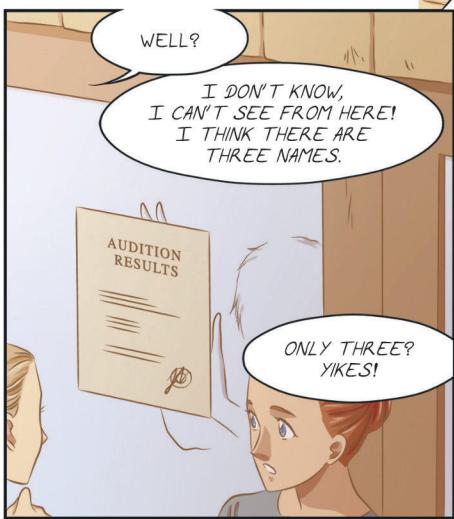
WHAT A DAY!
I WONDER IF
THEY'VE FINISHED
DELIBERATING!





HOW DID IT END UP IN THAT GIRL'S POSSESSION? AND WHY DO I GET THE FEELING I KNOW HER?





WHAT?! YOU...
YOU'RE ALL PART
OF THE SAME
FAMILY?!

OH YES! DIDN'T YOU
TELL HER? ARE YOU ASHAMED
OF US, LEONIDE?

OF YOU?
DEFINITELY!

SO, IS
EVERYONE
IN
THE FAMILY AN
ARTIST?!

YEAH, EXCEPT
I DON'T DANCE. I'M
GONNA BE A VIOLINIST IN
THE ORCHESTRA! AND
SOONER OR LATER THE
SOLOIST SEAT IS BOUND
TO BE MINE!

IS IT TRUE
THAT SOMETIMES
YOU PRACTICE UNTIL
LATE AT NIGHT?

HA, HA!
I SEE MY
REPUTATION
PRECEDES
ME!

REALLY?
HA, HA!

THE NIGHT
THE MAN IN WHITE
WOKE ME UP, THAT
MUST'VE BEEN
LUDWIG!

I THINK I'VE
HEARD YOU PLAYING
BEFORE!

ANYONE
WHO PLAYS THAT
WELL CAN'T BE A
BAD PERSON!

NOW I SEE WHY LEONIDE
SEEMED SO RESERVED WITH
HIS GRANDFATHER...

OXANA, WHAT ARE
YOU DOING? YOU'RE NOT
CONCENTRATING!

OH, SORRY!

SMILE? YES!
DANCE IS HARD,
BUT IT'S ALSO
A PASSION!

HE USUALLY SMILES ALL
THE TIME, BUT HIS RIVALRY
WITH LUDWIG MUST NOT BE
EASY FOR HIM!

AGAIN, AND THIS
TIME DON'T FORGET
TO SMILE!

I'M SO HAPPY TO FEEL THESE SENSATIONS AGAIN!

OXANA, WE HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS FOR YOU!

WE'RE STAGING THE SLEEPING BEAUTY BALLET IN OUR THEATER AND...

...EVERYONE AGREES THAT YOU'D BE PERFECT FOR THE ROLE OF PRINCESS AURORA...

WE CAN EVEN OFFER YOU THE PREMIERE! ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL?

FATHER? MOTHER?

DID I HAVE A VISION? OR ARE THESE ACTUAL MEMORIES???

IS IT JUST A COINCIDENCE?

JUST AS I THOUGHT! MORE CRYSTALS HAVE FORMED IN THE NECKLACE! IT SEEMS THE MORE I DANCE, THE MORE CRYSTALS APPEAR!

AND...

...THE MORE I DANCE, THE MORE I REMEMBER! MAYBE I'LL FIND OUT WHAT BECAME OF MY FAMILY AND WHY I WOKE UP IN AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT TIME.

THANK YOU, MRS. IRIS! I'LL DO MY BEST DURING OUR NEXT SESSIONS! HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY!

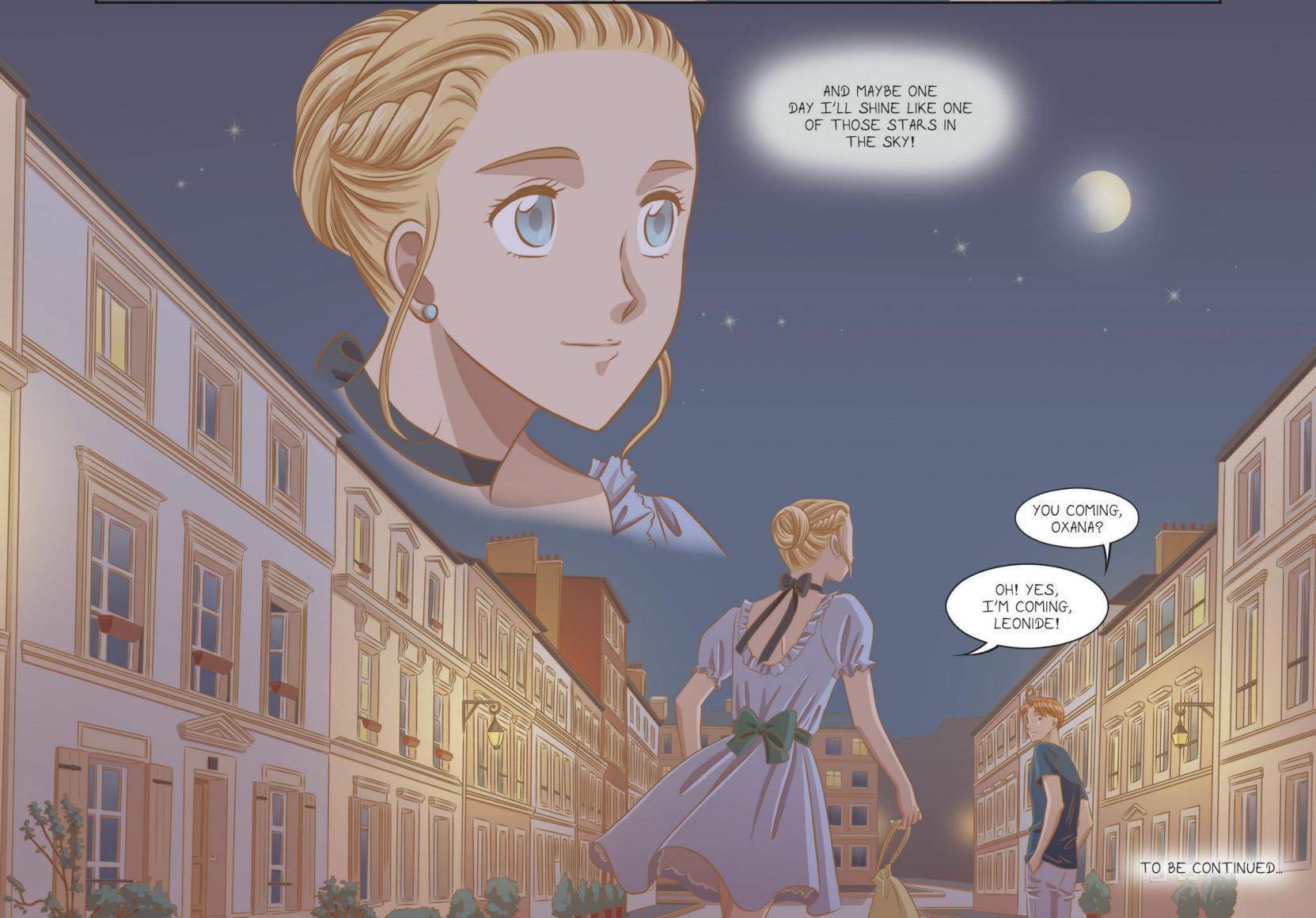
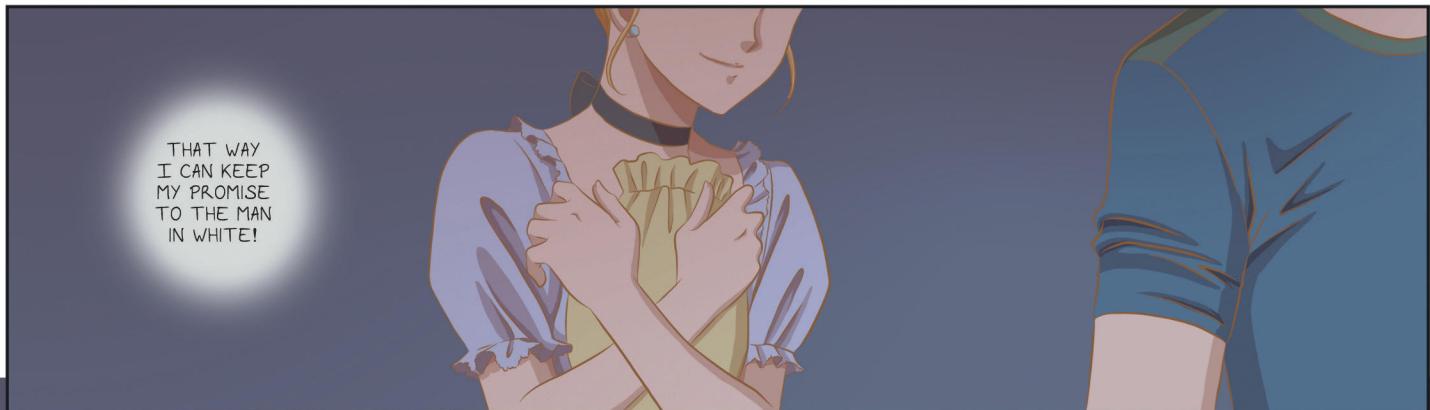
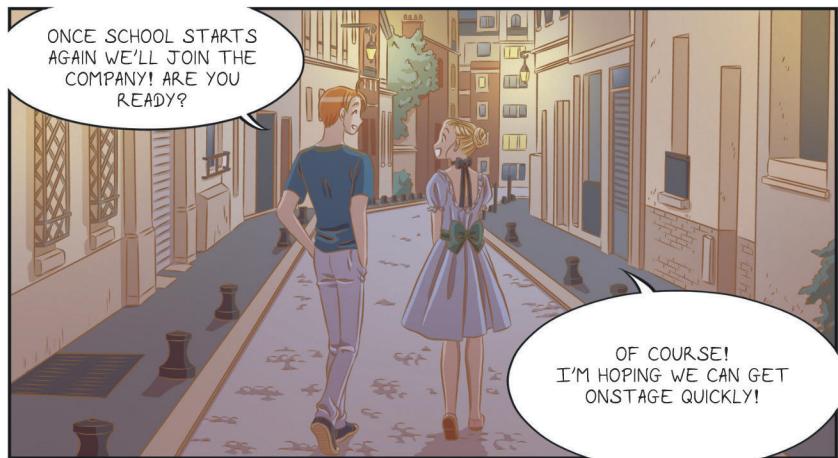
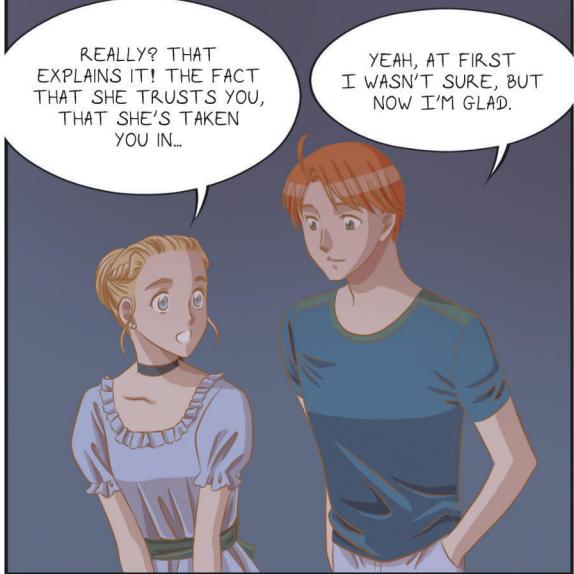
DON'T FORGET TO WORK ON YOUR LOWER LEG.

MRS. IRIS TERRIFIED ME DURING OUR FIRST FEW CLASSES... SHE'S A REAL AUTHORITARIAN.

BUT IT'S GOOD YOU MOVED IN WITH HER, LEONIDE. DO YOU KNOW HER WELL?

I WENT TO HER HOUSE A LOT WHEN I WAS LITTLE. MRS. IRIS IS MY GODMOTHER.

I'LL WALK OXANA TO HER BUILDING. SEE YOU LATER!



For Dad: I think about you every day.
And for my entire supportive family.

EUROPE COMICS - ALL DIGITAL. ALL EUROPEAN.
www.europecomics.com

This work is published as an e-book under the collective imprint Europe Comics, coordinated by Mediatoon Licensing. For rights queries, please contact Mediatoon at contact.mfr@mediatoon.com, or visit <http://www.mediatoon-foreignrights.com>.

© 2019 – DARGAUD – Karina
Translation: Jessie Aufiery
Lettering: Cromatik Ltd
Original title: La Belle endormie – Acte 1
Originally published in French by DARGAUD in 2018
All rights reserved.
www.dargaud.com

DARGAUD

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union

Oxana, a young dancer from the turn of the 19th century, is the victim of a terrible curse that plunges her into a deep slumber... She awakens a hundred years later with no memory of the past in a time that is not her own. Why has she lost her memory? What power does her strange necklace hold? And what are the intentions of the mysterious man in white who comes to her aid?

